Juicy 7



Bis

Team Rocket

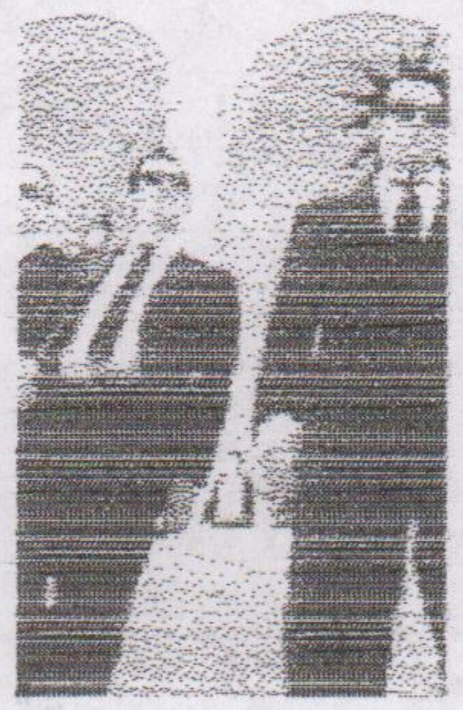
The Hissyfits

Otep

Velocity Recordings

Pretty Girls Make Graves

Good Charlotte





Tuuli

Mavis

Die So Fluid

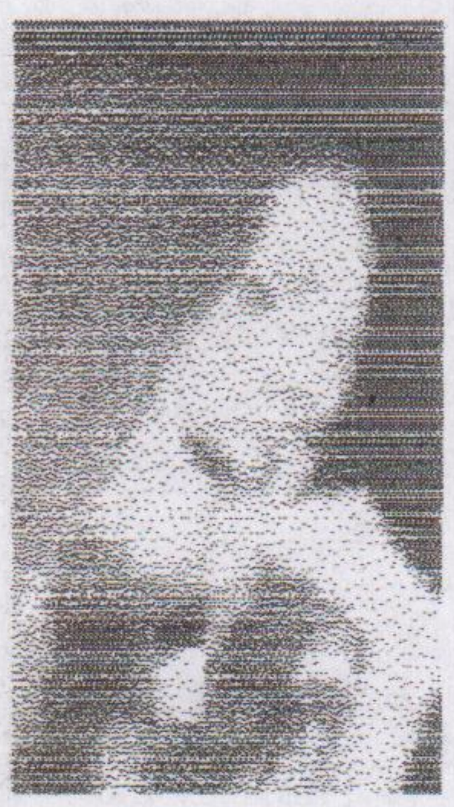
Brody Armstrong

Ladyfest

Angelica

Lacuna Coil





The Donnas

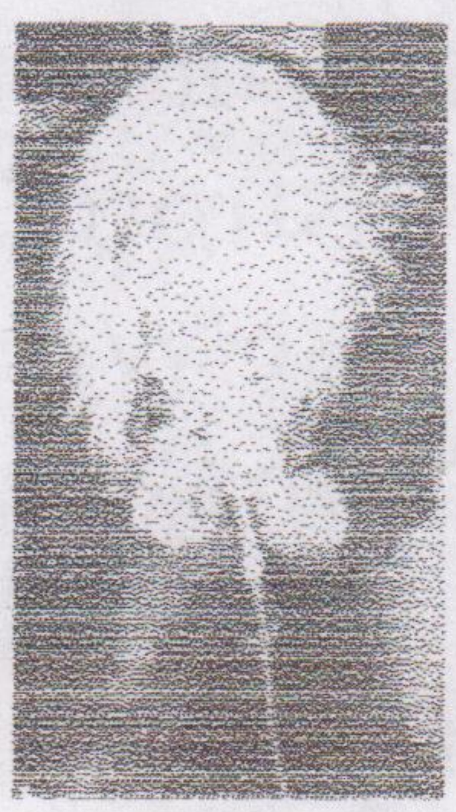
Shriek

GhostWorld

The Osbournes

Gina Birch/
Ana Da Silva

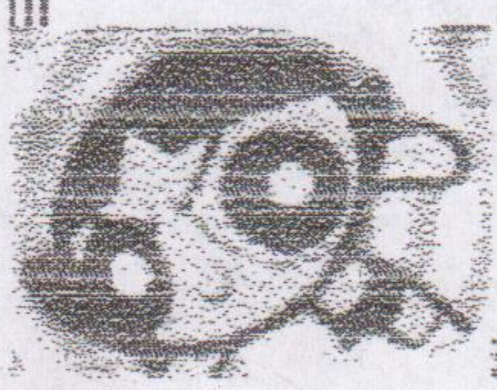
Kavolchy



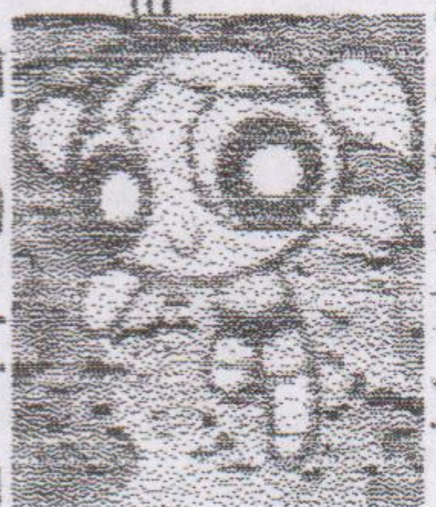
Hello!



What we got, yo? Well, the most loveable & upbeat bunch to be unfortunately lumped under the Nu-Punk banner, Riot Girl-loving **Good Charlotte** get 2 live reviews, despite my promise of an interview. Oh well.. We bid a tearful farewell to **Angelica**, with coverage of their final gig courtesy of Steve Richards, and say a big hello to the latest contenders to their abdicated glitterpop throne, **Team Rocket**. Scream as loud as you can for the Grrrls- namely Britpop survivors **Shriek**, and New York's **The Hissyfits**. (**The Hysterics** couldn't do their interview due to extreme busy-ness, hopefully next ish.) Legends live on, and do they come more legendary than ex-Raincoats **Gina Birch & Ana Da Silva**? Enter the dark side with **Lacuna Coil & Die So Fluid**, and come out into the light again with the cutey-tooty-frootily-licious **Bis**. In a tenuous link, **Manda** from Bis sent one of their first demo tapes to **Abuse** 'zine, and you can find out how it evolved from a humble 'zine to a fully-fledged record label. . And give it up for the boi's- and grrl- in the shape of **Mavis**. **The Donnas** stomp all over London with a spangly cowboy boot, and **Pretty Girls Make Graves** clean up the mess. **Kavolchy** kick the asses of the 'shaved apes'.. As do sparkly Canucks **Tuuli**, *live* and interviewed?! What's that all aboot, eh? (Sorry). The filler isn't pointless like before, with two different takes on **Ladyfest**, icons **Brody Armstrong & Otep Shamaya** worshipped, and bits on **Ghost World & The Osbournes**.. the usual demos, albums & zine reviews.. The next- and possibly, last- time Juicy will grace zine stalls & your doormat will be September, in time for Ladyfest Manchester. See ya there!



By the time this zine's put out, i'll have passed the ripe old age of 26. (C'mon, where was my card?!) At least as in years on this earth, anyway; I seem to be frozen at age 21. I still enjoy gigs (and I don't leave before the encore), I live with mum & dad still, I have the same penchant for alkyhol, I still get zits, my friends are anything up to 10 years



younger than me, I have no intention of becoming a cosy family guy yet (maybe not ever?), I change my hair colour monthly, if not more frequently, I eat hideous amounts of sweets, I watch cartoons, you're more likely to see me shopping in a skateshop than fucking Littlewoods.. now is that the behaviour of an average 26 year old?

Hmm, wonder if i've got enough milk in..?

Better Than Bad. They're Good.

Good Charlotte @ Camden Monarch, 6/9/02 & Highbury Garage, 22/11/02 By K.

So, Good Charlotte... set to finally break over here big time (hopefully they won't be seen as merely riding the crest of the nu-punk wave), yet they've already achieved a pretty high fanbase despite never having an album released proper over here. I guess it's come thanks to the Warped tour, and maybe to a lesser extent their appearance as the Prom band in Not Another Teen Movie. So, having played huge arenas over in the states.. why have they chosen the microscopic Camden Monarch for their first standalone gig here in jolly ol' Blighty? What-what-what?

Support was provided by **Not Katies & Fletcher**, but I didn't get to see 'em, 'cos demand for the gig was pretty overwhelming- they coulda sold out this place 3 times over.. people had come from Cape Town & Israel to see 'em but couldn't get in- how's that for dedication! When, to my surprise, **Good Charlotte** themselves come up to us all & say Hi- it takes a few seconds to realise that it was GC themselves, cos bands aren't normally this friendly, are they..?

Well, after attempting to blag my way in by pretending I knew Steve Feinberg (their manager)- oops, did I say that out loud?!- i'm finally let in, and, thanks to Syb's description I recognise Steve behind the merch stall, we have a brief chat & I glance at the doorpeople- "Oh yeah, we're like *that* y'know.." before heading upstairs.

Well, there's no chance whatsoever of getting near the front, so I settle for the halfway line. Soon as 'Little Things' kicks in, EVERYONE'S jumpin', no exceptions- even the beer bottles. From the outside, I imagine the building to be bouncing cartoon-style, cos even the band alone are rockin' the place hard enough to register 7 points on the richter scale.. well, to the extent that Steve has to come onstage & hold a teetering amp-stack up. He makes the most of his time onstage, grinning & singing along. GC spend a lot of time between songs thanking us for comin' out & supporting them, they're really down-to-earth & share a great rapport with their fans. And WE NEED MORE BANDS LIKE THIS. Really, we should be thanking them for playing this orgy-in-a-single-bed level of intimate venue. "We're gonna play 'Seasons' for the first time in about 8 months, so excuse us if we mess it up.." Well, it seems pretty perfect from where I am. And most of the audience know all the words, which at the time was quite surprising!

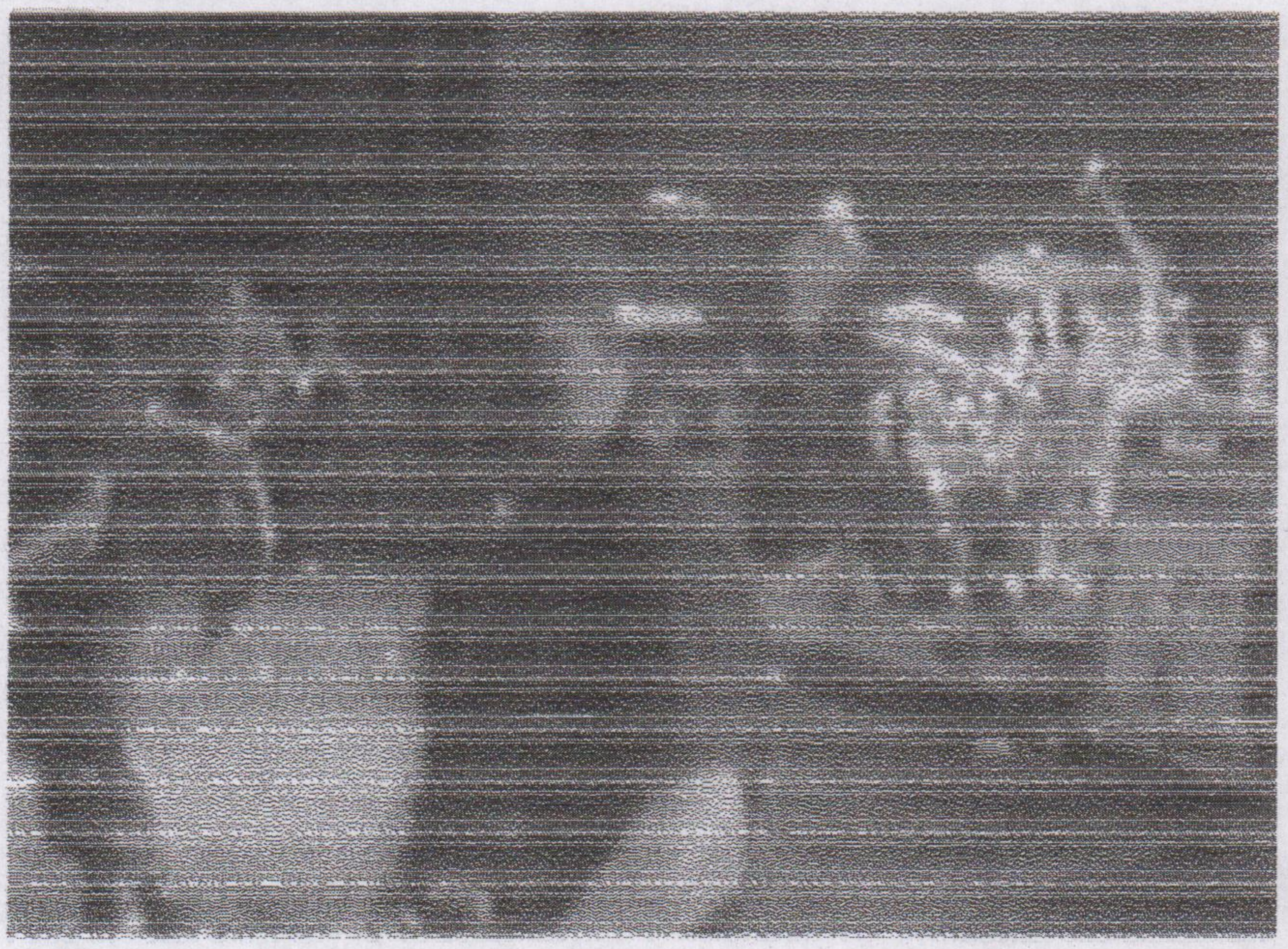
If you're unfamiliar with GC's music, they play an intelligent, melodic brand of metal-tinged punk-pop, with lyrics that this generation can relate to, but with a positive vibe- the nearest band I can compare them to is American Hi-Fi, only smarter. Title track of the next album, the first to get a full release over here, 'Lifestyles Of The Rich & Famous' underlines this perfectly.

Being handsome devils, GC have more than their share of teenybopper fans, and wannabe-groupies- luckily, there's not too many in attendance tonight.. Joel (The Madden twin you can take home to mum), having received about a hundred high fives from the crowd, announces their last number. 'Everything's Gonna Be Alright' (It's called *WALDORF WORLDWIDE*, dumbass!!!) is probably the most anthemic song i've heard in ages. This shoulda been their breakthrough tune over here, if y'ask me. Inamongst all the excitement, someone loses a shoe. I attempt to find it's rightful owner to no avail- when someone says "That's mine!", despite already having a pair- a *white* pair- of shoes on. Well, Vans Old Skool Flame lowtop- I hope you did find your way back to the correct owner's foot.

Good Charlotte

Well, they rocked the fuck outa this li'l shoebox, wonder what they can do to The Garage..?

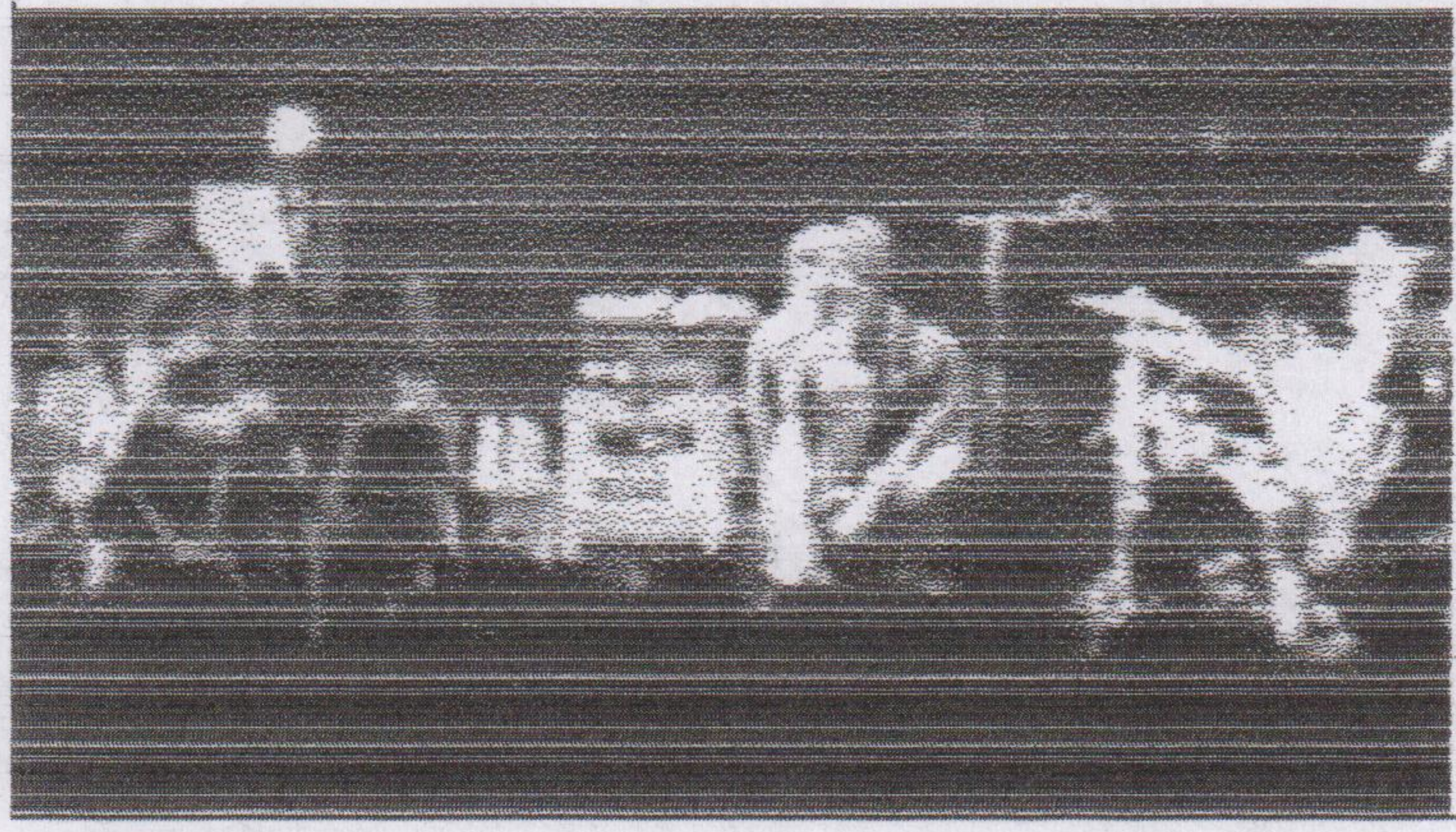
..They can pack it out just like they did the Monarch. The place is *heaving*. And there's more teenybopper Avril Lavigne clones than last time,.. **Not Katies** support yet again, and are as good-yet-unremarkably-so as before, they do a fair job hyping the crowd up for GC, but musically they're... competent, but need more outstanding choons. GC are slated to do a long set- 1¼ hours! Ooh!



Young, but definitely not hopeless, fresh-faced, amiable, optimistic & inspirational, that could go some way to summing up **Good Charlotte**. They're a far cry from Papa Roach's Kevin-The-Teenager fake angst. And I love the way, while maintaining a familiar style, their choons aren't samey- from the touching, lighter-waving 'Hold On', before which Benjy made an impassioned monologue stating that the song was for anyone having a tough time, contemplating suicide, or has a friend who's feeling the same- to the funky, ska-inflected 'Little Things', to the emo-ish 'Wondering', the refreshing jangle-punk-pop of 'Seasons'... to the downright anthemic 'London, England Worldwide' - well, that's how they introduce it tonight. I get the impression they love it, and the fans, over here, but they make the usual, cliche'd observations; (Benjy) "We love the way you drive on the wrong side of the road.. (No- YOU drive on the wrong side of the road, sunshine!) ..and we love the way you talk funny.." Well, only if we talk like Joel's attempt at an English accent, not sure whether it was an attempt at a London accent, but i'm guessing he'd been watching Coronation Street rather than Eastenders.



"And how are all the Riot Girls doin out there..?"- Joel. Woooyaa!! There's a track on their new album entitled 'Riot Girl', but it's not played tonight. Pity. 'Waldorf Worldwide' is down as their last number, but they're staying out here.. (Joel) "You know we're gonna do more, so it's not worth going off then coming back on again" (Benjy) "Plus there's too many syllables in Good Charlotte to chant" Well, over here we usually shorten things to acronyms, so they coulda chanted 'GC! GC!'. Or maybe 'Charlotte! Charlotte!'. And subsequently embarrass any girl called Charlotte in the crowd. They close on the first single to be released off their first-album-to-get-an-official-release over here (Their self-titled debut is only out on import), 'The Young & The Hopeless', that being 'Lifestyles Of The Rich & Famous', a number berating the bands that are the antithesis of GC, and hopefully they'll succeed in saving the kids from the boneheaded misogyny of Limp Bizkit, or the dummy-spitting whining of Papa Roach. Everything's gonna be alright.



Well, due to sacking their PR guy, who was my only contact, there's no interview as promised this ish, but I will keep trying...

Maybe the last time, I don't Know..

Angelica/ 3D Tanx/ Puma Sutras/ Mob Curious/ Beefsharkey @ The Yorkshire House, Lancaster
By Steve Richards

As soon as I saw this gig listed on Angelica's website as "This may be the last gig the band play for some time..." I knew I had to be there. I couldn't really afford it- the train fare, B&B, the gig. But if this was to be the last gig Angelica played for a long time, maybe even the last gig ever, then I had to be there.

Spent a lovely saturday afternoon in Preston with my friend Carrie (who goes to university with Angelica's former drummer!) before heading off to Lancaster. Angelica were headlining & not on stage til 10.30, but I had to be there for 7.30 to pick up my reserved ticket. I didn't mind this cos I wanted to check out the other bands. All five of tonight's bands (and the ten who played Friday & Sunday to complete the Yorkie Weekender) are from in & around Lancaster, all playing free to raise money for the Lancaster Musician's Co-Op which finds it's future threatened.

First up tonight were **Beefsharkey**. Being as they were bottom of the bill I wasn't expecting much. But they were ace! Young & full of sparkly enthusiasm, a guy on drums, two guys & a girl who all played guitar & took it in turns on lead vox. Sounded a little like the Pixies. Maybe. I urge you to check out www.beefsharkey.co.uk.

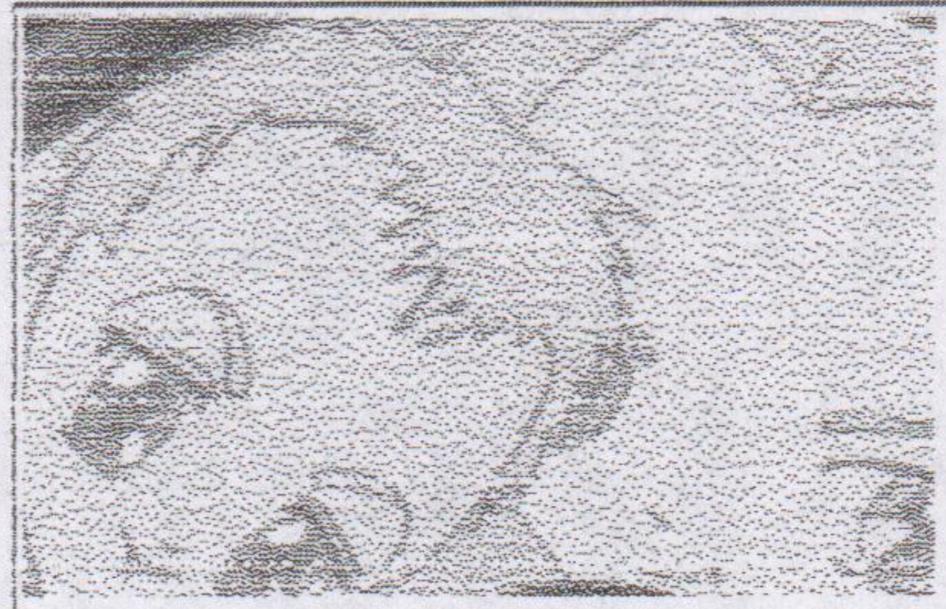
Next up were the all bloke **Mob Curious**. They rocked & rolled as the venue started to fill up. One song stuck in my head, with a catchy chorus line of "No time for hesitation/I need my domination girl". Kinky. Third on the bill were the **Puma Sutras**. Loud guitars combined with an unusual lead singer, more as if he was talking to us than singing. Everyone seemed to love them but it didn't wow me. I got the feeling 90% of the crowd were on first name terms with the band though, so that might explain the raucous approval. A local gig for local people if you like. Fourth band on stage were **3D Tanx**. Can't recall too much about them, possibly not their fault, as by this stage I was so desperate to have Angelica on stage that it might as well have been The Beatles as 3D Tanx cos I was past listening.

The whole Yorkie Weekender was largely organised by Angelica. On the Saturday Holly & Claire were busy helping the other bands set up on stage, Brigit was organising a raffle, and Rachel was DJing (Highlights being 'One Way Or Another' & 'Violently Happy'). So they looked a bit flustered when they took the stage & launched into 'Guilty As Sin' (sounding much more powerful live than it does on the album) before finding their feet with 'Concubine Blues'. After this, the set was entirely of 'The Seven Year Itch' songs, including the great lost single 'Liberation's Wasted On Me' and an 'Evergreen' that shits all over Will Young. The bitterness & darkness these songs have on the album is replaced by a lighter mood tonight- the songs are interspersed with Steve Irwin impressions (Whammo!) and dodgy jokes from Holly "Jeremy Beadle's got a really small

Continued on page 18

(Hey you) The Rock(et) Steady Crew

Okay, it's winter, but ya still want some unseasonal summeriness? Well, the pop-tacular Midlands collective Team Rocket can't change the weather, but they can provide the soundtrack. At their recent London debut at the Bull & Gate, where they impressed a sizeable crowd of, um, fifteen, with their pure pop groooooviness, abstract manga-influenced song titles, and pink tigerskin amp covers, I purchased their 2 Ep's (reviewed later) and asked singer Abi if i could get an interview with 'em.. and here's the result!



K⁺; Introduce yourselves to the lovely readers.. and give your musical & non-musical contribution. **Abi;** Why is everyone looking at me? I'm Abi! I'm the lead singer, and... I shout at people, a lot. **Matt;** My name's Matt. **Rich;** Hello, Matt. **M;** ..And i'm a guitarist. My non-musical role is do the website & emails & stuff. **Kelly;** Go on, Rich. **R;** Rich; Drummer, flyers.. **A;** Posters. **R;** Posters & general jackass. **A;** Your turn, Kelly. **K;** Kelly; Bass & Website, forums. **A;** You do one forum. **R;** You don't do shit! **K;** I do! **R;** I've got another one. Roadie for Kelly. **A;** We all do that! *K⁺; When/How did Team Rocket Form?* **R;** Abi. **A;** Nearly 3 years ago, when all my bands kept splitting up.. I needed another one. **M;** We were a supergroup formed of people from different bands. **A;** Mike (ex-Team Rocket bassist) was in all my bands for the last 5 years, and every time one would split up, we'd go & form another band. We had a dickhead called Brad playing the drums, and you (Matt) wanted to be in my band as well. I suppose, the current line up.. we kicked Brad out, got Rich.. **R;** Hurrah! **A;** Mike left, got Kelly. That was how Team Rocket formed.

K⁺; Describe your sound, and who/what influences it. **A;** You know what I reckon.. **M;** It's relentless hard pop, that's what that bloke said the other night, the singer from the other band. **K;** That's really cool! I was thinking, you know, we're quite britpop, if you listen to Chinese Fighting Shirt, the chorus is really britpop. **A;** I dunno, I think we're quite new wave. **K;** Stuff like Sadako, it's quite surfy. **A;** Everyone says Blondie. **K;** Yeah, Blondie. **A;** But I don't know, we're getting a bit more fifties, a bit more surfy. **K;** Basically, we just go through the genres & put guitars into it, like Supremes, with guitars.. **M;** And surf-horror. **A;** **A;** Yeah, and Beach Boys. With guitars. **K;** Who influences us? Apart from The Supremes. **M;** Pixies. **A;** And Blondie. Come on Rich, you're very quiet. **K;** Yeah, stop drumming! **R;** My influence is Roy, down the local. He's a geezer. *K⁺; What first made you want to start playing the instrument you play?* **A;** I was trying to impress some bloke that I was going out with, who played the guitar. **K;** That's lame, that is. **A;** I know! **K;** Not very Girl Power **A;** Thing is, he dumped me, I thought if I could be a better guitarist than him, that would be my sweet revenge! I thought it looked cool. **K;** I think that's a good enough reason. Matt? **M;** I liked the sound of it. That's a really boring reason. **A;** Come on Kelly, what made you take up the bass? **K;** I was forced into it! Didn't exactly take it up on my own. **A;** What happened? Did someone say, 'Hey you, play bass!'? **K;** Yeah, I was like, c'mon, I'm playing the drums here (with Baxxter). I didn't really wanna play drums. **A;** So what did you want to play? **K;** Nah, I didn't mind playing drums, I didn't mid playing bass. Any instrument. **A;** Rich, what made you want to play the drums? **R;** I saw some guy playing when I was 13. Thought i'd have a go at that. *K⁺; Best/ Worst gig venue?* **K;** I don't think there's enough space on the tape! **A;** What was the worst gig venue you've ever done? The Sportsman at Long Eaton.



R; Yeah. K; Yeah, that was pretty shit, but there was also O'Neills on Broad Street *(In Brum, I presume?- K⁺)*. That was fucking awful. O'Neills wins it, I think. A; Especially as they kicked out the support band for being too young.. K; And the sound was shit. M; I think the Sportsman was worse. Or where we did the Battle Of The Bands, where the soundman put the PA behind the microphones, and that guy walked off, the guitarist, then came back, and they still won! A; What's the best one? R; The Ice rink. It was a novelty venue. K; Don't say that! A; It was cool! *(Well it'd have to be, else the ice would melt! (.....wind blows...... tumbleweed rolls by....)- K⁺)* K; I think the Flapper & Firkin. A; I thought last night's venue (The Hare & Hounds) was pretty good. M; Better than it used to be. ***K⁺; Best/Worst single of 2002?*** R; Anything by Gareth Gates. A; Yeah, anything by Gareth Gates, Will Young, Robbie Williams.. K; Cheeky fucking Girls!! R; (sings) #We are the Cheeky Girls..# K; Noooooooo!!! A; At least that has novelty Christmas value. It's gotta be, oh, the Spiderman Band.. M; Nickelback. K; Chad Kroeger. A; 'How You Remind Me'. Actually, I know what's worse, Puddle Of Mudd. K; I can't think of worse. Oh, fucking Avril Lavigne! Everything she's done!

M; Bowling For Soup. A; That's the worst one.No, 'It's Just Porn, Mum'. How about the best song? K; 'United States Of Whatever', or the Foo Fighters one. A; Anything by the Foo Fighters. And the Disco one, 'Danger; High Voltage'. M; It barely counts. It's not out yet. *(Well, not* then *anyway- K⁺)* K; What's your favourite song, Rich? R; That Elvis one, that's genius. ***K⁺; What do you want for Xmas this year?*** A; I.... Don't know. K; Why do they say Xmas instead of Christmas? A; Cos it's faster to type it. K; But why 'X'? A; It's the Greek letter, Chi, yeah, Chi Ro is the old symbol for Christianity. A cross and a P. I never thought of that before, y'know. I've spent the last couple of weeks wondering why people write Xmas, and it's just sort of popped into my head. *(I thought it was cos the cross (X) represented Jesus Christ, but that's a more educated answer. So now y'know! Team Rocket- Purveyors of knowledge. -K⁺)* R; I want a shoe box. With lots of money in. M; A little fluffy kitten. *(Awwww- K⁺)* A; Alright, I want a case. With lots of money in. *(I hate getting money stuffed in a card for Xmas. "Really, you shouldn't have gone to all that* trouble.." *-K⁺)* R; And a pineapple. What do you want, Kel? K; A manager & a record contract. A; Yeah, a really fat record contract, but with an independent label that wouldn't tell us what to do too much. R; I need some new shoelaces as well. K; You're a tramp, you are. A; Some cardboard for your shoes, you can use your shoebox for that. ***K⁺; Who would be your dream celebrity date & where would you take them?*** A; I know exactly who my date would be & where i'd take them. It would be Robbie

...Check out www.rocketcity.com...

Williams & i'd take him to a fucking torture chamber. That would be a brilliant date. I'd just, like, torture him for hours & listen to him screaming! K; You're sick! Don't say that, they might think you're some kind of dominatrix, or some fucked up bitch. M; I'm not answering this. Kelly? K; Oh, of course, Craig (Nicholls) from The Vines, badass Craig. I dunno where i'd take him. A; You could take him to an optician to get his eyes sorted out. (Rolls eyes around) he's a very good looking guy, otherwise. K; He is, aye. Rich? Don't say fucking Avril Lavigne! R; Davina McCall. I'd take her out & i'd take her into the Big Brother bedroom & spank her ass. A; Davina McCall? Isn't she quite old? K; I think she's about 30. R; She seems like fun. K; She takes smack, doesn't she? A; Do you reckon she was ever friends with ✪□✱▬ ✯✱▲●✱✱? *(Sorry, had to censor that, cos due to legal reasons we can't say anything incriminating about John Leslie... Oh, bollocks. -K⁺)* K; And that Richard Bacon geezer. R; Yep, i'd take her into the Big Brother bedroom & snort a line of cocaine off her ass. M; And you can quote him on that. *(Fucking hell, are you sure?! This is* libellous! *-K⁺)* K; Go on Abi, give a serious answer. A; There aren't any really nice celebrities, they're all like, boy bands & they're all shorter than me. ***K⁺; Finally, tell everyone why Team Rocket kick ass...*** A; Cos we do. Cos we're all really hard. K; We've got to give a better reason than that. R; Cos the music scene isn't really kicking ass. A; Well, we're a bit different, we're a bit energetic onstage & a lot of bands don't do that. R; Is that the end of the interview? *(Indeed. it's been an honour & a pleasure.- K⁺)* M; And that's why Team Rocket kick ass.

We Rock So Fuck Off!

"Some people say little girls should be seen and not heard.." The Hissyfits, and Shriek. Two ace grrl bands. They rock. *Should* be all ya need to know, but here's more for ya..

A chat with Ros from Shriek..

Introduce yourself to the lovely readers...

Hi, i'm Ros from Shriek. I play mean fucking guitar and drown out my singing!

You've been around since the days of Britpop, and supported the likes of Gene, Elastica, Ash etc, after taking a sabbatical, you've come back, are you looking forward to going out & gigging, recording etc again?

Yeah. I'm dying to write, gig and record with Vas-Drums and Midus- Bass cos they're both brilliant. We've done 2 gigs now and are looking forward to the 'Fucking Women' night at On The Rocks.

Best/Worst gigs you've played?

Best gig is probably Barrowlands in Glasgow with our old band. We drove up overnight from Southampton as we were on tour, to play the gig on our day off. We were on after The Delgados and before Travis and we sounded great!

The Astoria with Elastica was alright too! They were and still are one of my favourite bands. I'm proud of the tour and what we did with them. It rocked.

Worst gig- Dublin Castle, who were taking the piss last month. *(October, that is- K)* No publicity, appalling sound, running late, late, late. We even have a video of it for posterity- just in case we forget how bad it really was. I accidentaly recorded over it with Queens Of The Stone Age but the rest of the band seem to have made endless copies unfortunately.

Current fave album?

Queens Of The Stone Age- 'Songs For The Deaf'. I love 'No One Knows'.

What's yr fave... Choc bar?

Lindt Macadamia Nut when i'm miserable- It has special powers!

Alcoholic drink?

Hoegaarden lager, but I don't drink much these days.

Simpsons character?

Lisa. She's cool. I love the bit at the beginning when she's playing sax in the school orchestra and then starts improvising. I used to play rock n roll riffs on my violin.

Animal?

Cat. 'Fuzzy', specifically. So named because I was blasting away on my fuzzbox when I first met her and she hid under the bed for 2 weeks!

Place in the world?

In bed. On stage. The Miradaur above the Soller Valley in Mallorca where I got lost in February and had to sleep overnight in a shepherd's hut with no light, food, sleeping bag or jacket! Before it got dark it was beautiful, like climbing up into heaven.

Finally, tell everyone why they should love Shriek..

I don't know why other people should love Shriek. I f my 14 year old self saw Shriek I think i'd love it. I hope it would wake me up and make me fight back. I don't think i've changed much. I just express myself a bit better. Also, we're now all girls and we rock!

....And I witnessed- well, I say witnessed, I mean endured- the wonderful organisation of that Dublin Castle gig. (The infamous Toxic Toilets overflowed, to boot) I thought Shriek were never gonna get on. But they did- for about 20 minutes- yet they remained professional & relatively composed (but no doubt wanting to strangle the promoters inside..), and had no option but to race through their set, but catchy, harmonic gems such as 'I Love You Big Muff', and set closer, 'Do I Have To Scream', and others besides (that, admittedly, I can't remember the titles of! Sorry..)made it well worth the while of the few who had to endure all that came beforehand....

We Rock So Fuck Off!

The Hissyfits were one of many musical highlights of Ladyfest, but they had something special- and that was instantly memorable, catchy choons that were impossible not to fall in love with. 'Something Wrong' stuck in my head pretty much all weekend at Ladyfest, and if it wasn't for a chance meeting with them in the hostel foyer- when I wasn't even s'posed to be there!- I might not even have their Cd, 'Letters From Frank'. As Holly says, there's a new album coming out soon, and if it features anything as special as the likes of 'Something Wrong', 'Superstar', 'Giant Ants' & 'Lock & Load'... I suggest you do what it takes to get it.

A chat with Holly from The Hissyfits..

How are you all? And what have you been up to lately?

We are all fantastic, busy, and generally trying to rock as much as possible! We've been doing lots of shows in NYC & New England & working on the new album, which is going to break & make hearts!

For those that don't know, who's who in the band, and who does what?

Holly (aka Princess): Guitar/ vox
Wren: Bass/ Viola/ vox
Sivan: Drummer extraordinaire

How was yr Ladyfest experience?

It was a bit crazy for us, coming at the end of our UK tour, but we had a great time & loved the London crowd!

Who was yr fave band of that weekend?

We really liked Hello Cuca & Angelica. Unfortunately we didn't get to see any of the bands on the other days so surely there were others that we would have loved.

Current/ All time fave bands?

Well, this could be a long list if everyone threw in their faves but as a short list for us all; (All time) Weezer, Nirvana, The Smiths, Hole, PJ Harvey, The Clash, Nick Cave. (Current) Queens Of The Stone Age, Old 97's, Rasputina, Walkmen.

Which Hissyfits song do you enjoy playing the most?

Everyone in the band has their own faves, but we all love playing 'Can't Keep Waiting', a song that's going to be on the new album, and 'Something Wrong' from the last album. Other songs we love from the forthcoming album are 'Punk Rock Romance' , 'Baby Tell Me', 'Kinda Like It', and 'Sinner'. Oh, you're gonna love the new album!!

Do you get to play the UK very often? What's yr fave thing about England?

That was our first trip to the UK and we're hoping to come back this year. The people were wonderful and the smaller towns we played in were beautiful & charmed every one of us into loving them. The London pubs were great & we ate a lot of Indian food. What can we say, it was all so sweet!

....Anything else you'd like to say?

We're ready to come back & rock with everyone there again! Please visit our website & sign up for our mailing list and we'll keep you posted. (***www.hissyfits.com***). Lots of love! ex oh ex oh, The Hissyfits.



The somewhat out-of-focus **Hissyfits** @ Ladyfest London.



Shriek @ the ill-fated Dublin Crap'ole gig last october. Contact ***shriekrock@hotmail.com***

Two Raincoats for the price of one

Gina Birch/ Ana Da Silva/ Linus @ Aldgate Spitz, 15/1/03 By K

Yay! Happy Birthday to me, happy birthday to me... well, yesterday. And what better way to spend it than blundering round Liverpool Street, hopelessly lost, trying to find my way to a place that I thought I knew the way to?! I knew it was down an alleyway past Dirty Dick's (it's a pub, not a sex shop), but I don't remember going past a carpark, and.. which way do I turn?! Aw, shite. Bearings completely lost, it eventually appears on my left after rounding the next block. Inspite of all that, I still arrive *way* too early.

I'm quite surprised that the guitarist from **Linus** (Andy) recognises me from the Ladyfest Men in Feminism panel- fame at last, eh?! (Beam!) There's quite a few other faces I recognise (and also recognise me! i'll be signing autographs later..) from Ladyfest, perhaps unsurprisingly, I suspected that tonight's DJ's were there too (later confirmed when, as at Ladyfest, they played Sophia George 'Girlie Girlie'). Linus have a really sweet lead singer, who always sings with a beaming smile & a far-away, daydreamy look in her eyes, and play fairly standard, but amiable indie-pop with a soupçon of cuteness. Except maybe 'D.I.O', "Our metal song"- the clue was probably in the title- not quite metal maybe, but loveable nonetheless.

What would you expect **Ana Da Silva** to be like solo? Probably nothing like you'd expect. Well, she was just that- solo- just her, a guitar & a sampler. And her set was as bizarre as it was amazing, part Kraftwerk, part Bjork, part Ladytron, all mesmerising. 'Disco Ball' in particular had some pretty odd lyrics, but the standout song was 'In Awe Of A Picture', about a scene in the movie Basquiat, where someone was so moved by one of his paintings, she just stood there & cried. I think, anyway- perhaps through nervousness, or plain bonkers-ness, Ana was a little impenetrable, not to mention indecipherable. This was the set closer, shoulda come in the middle of the set but due to a programming error on her sampler, we're made to wait. But good things come to those, blah blah.. It's a funky disco tune, reminiscent of Ladytron's 'The Way That I Found You', to which Ana throws some funky shapes, to the amusement of some- in fact, her whole set was greeted by a few with perplexed amusement. But i'm blown away.

Gina Birch herself plonks some Cd's of her new band The Hangovers, on the merch (um, well,it's only selling Linus Ep's & badges) stall- But if she's in a band, why's she still billed as being solo? Her keyboardist, Ida- who I think I erroneously named Edith last ish?- is again sporting an elaborate outfit, and Gina looks kinda mumsy, but still glitzy. Gina's lyrics are more to-the-point than Ana's calculated bizarreness, and kick ass. Like Le Tigre, each song is accompanied by a video, 'Tidy Up' stands out in the memory as it features a 3-way split screen of women doing housework in the nude. Which of course has the two blokes next to me glued. Yeah, I know EXACTLY what you're thinking, ya grubby little wankers. On some songs, the dancer- who might be Ida's twin sister, they look very alike..- comes on & gives a sort-of interpretive mime, wordless vocalising, umm, thing, along with the song. Second-to-last number, 'Monster' is- once Gina gets her fingers to work her guitar!- cute with a neat sting in the tail in the lyrics. She says before her last number, "there's a little treat coming up for you a bit later"- mmm, ooh, wonder what that could be..?!

Yep, maybe predictably, but still.. it's **THE RAINCOATS!** Yep, with Vicky Aspinall on violin, but that's not Richard Dudanski, or Derek Goddard, or even Palmolive on drums- it's actually Linus' guitarist, "stepping into the breach". They of course play 'Fairytale In The Supermarket', which means I leave happy..

..But my path to Liverpool St station is blocked by a somewhat noisy & kinda intimidating gang in a car, I blunder my way round several blocks & wrong turns until I eventually happen upon the safe haven of... *Whitechapel* Tube station. Moo?

I smell of patchouli & pan-stick

Lacuna Coil/ Sentenced/Blackshine @ London Astoria 31/10/02 By K*

Hallowe'en night, and the ghouls are.. all packed into the Astoria. Metal Hammer were offering a bounty of free goodie bags to everyone in fancy dress- big wow. So, quelle surprise, there were several Scream cozzies on view. Yeah, original. Surely i should get something for the most original outfit- I mean, navy blue, at a goth gig...? Ridiculous! MH were offering a special prize to anyone who turned up in a full, clanking suit of armour- no-one took 'em up on that offer, but if they did i'd have felt like going up to them, knocking on their helmet & whispering through the visor; "You do realise the special prize is just a postcard..?"

Dodging vampires (fancy dress or genuine) I vie for a decent spot, only wishing I hadn't when **Blackshine** unleash their hackneyed take on death metal. Trying so desperately to be menacing, but looking merely like sweaty roadies, they snarl & grunt & sweat & wank & spit & shit out songs with titles like 'Your Pain Is My Pleasure'- gives you an idea of what



they're all about. Comically, the singer even talks like he sings- "HOW Y'ALL DOIN' THIS HALLOWE'EN NIGHT!!", not unlike an East Anglian version of Otto from The Simpsons. Cool costume, Bart-dude!

£3.20 for a can of Grolsch. What??!!

Given the amount of Screams here, i'm a bit worried about having to use a cubicle in the loos (remember the first death in Scream 2?). I look through my copy of Metal Hammer to see if there's a gratuitous mention of Sugarcoma. Oh wow, 3 pages! Worth £3.20 after all. My god, i'm the only one here in navy blue! In a sea of black, I might as well be wearing fluorescent musical Y-fronts.. "It's faded in the wash, honest!"

Sentenced are the surprise of the night, I didn't really expect much of them, but probably because of that, they were a breath of fresh air. Treading a similar, atmospheric goth-lite path to Finnish compatriots H.I.M, they're perhaps not on this showing enticing enough to get the album, but are enjoyable nonetheless. I'm pretty sure there were a few smiles in the crowd, but i'm probably wrong. After 5 years & 4 albums, **Lacuna Coil** are getting some recognition over here. And, quelle surprise, all the focus is on the (admittedly) alluring vocalist Cristina Scabbia. Ignore the fact she has one of the most dynamic, possibly classically trained, voices, and the band (Andrea Ferro, Marco Cotizelati, Marco Biazzi, Cristiano Mozzati, & Cristiano Migliore, just so ya know) produce some impressively theatric music- almost like a goth Queen- and all share the spotlight front-stage, they have a sexy lead singer, so they- sorry, *she*- gets to appear in Kerrang.

Opening up with new album title track, 'Comalies', and following with the best track off the album, 'Swamped', they send shivers down everyone's spine, and Cristina's voice sends shivers down everything else. So the audience is collectively trembling, and the combined scent of patchouli & Embassy #1's (Being waved right in my face #cough splutter#) could be captured & bottled into a Glade Plug-In, to provide a suitable ambience while playing the album.

Pretty much every track is played off 'Comalies', and when they dip into their back catalogue 'Unleashed Memories' is pretty

Continued on page 18

What Not To Wear

~~The Suffrajets~~/ Die So Fluid/ B-Movie Heroes/ C64 @ Kings X Water Rats 22/8/02 By K.

A Crystal Maze of a tube station. Dirty, scruffy pigeons. Impatient drivers eager to toot their horns if something doesn't move for 2 seconds, or comes within 10 metres of them. Rougher-looking panhandlers than Camden. A lady walking down the street crying her eyes out. Incessant noise without even a second of silence. A full set of 52 prostitute's cards in a phonebox (probably including Jokers). A puddle of sick. Buildings caked in at least half a century's worth of dirt. Welcome to Kings fuckin' Cross.

The Suffrajets have cancelled. Aw, poo.

Last-minute replacements **C64** only really memorable for having a female drummer really. Decidedly average, with little personality or persona, I don't think they'll be inspiring many to start a band.

B-Movie Heroes feature ex- Yo-Yo's, and 'Prangers' (who?!) makes an appearance, sporting a pretty hideous tight green/white/orange (The green & white being in the most common shades of sick) cotton top.. He's still sporting L'Oreal Blue/Black hairdye, if anyone can tell me Rachel Stamp's respective natural hair colours, write to me & win Robin Guy's used condom.. (If you bought Juicy 2 you'll understand how I came to acquire said second-hand prophylactic. For those that did buy it, you might be wondering why i've still got it? Well, there's some DNA in there, which i'm going to use to create an army of sexually ambiguous, multi-coloured-haired drummers, to take over the WORLD!!.. or Boots' make up counters.) I didn't like 'em at first, probably for trying too hard to be 'American', but after an unimpressive start I eventually warm to them, well, during their songs- their overuse of the phrase 'Thank you very fuckin' much' between each song puts me off, and is an effort to score Punk Rock Points, seeing as their contingent & a few others are appreciative, especially the long-haired guy in a leather jacket Tipp-exed with luminaries such as Maiden, Saxon, Sabbath, Anti Product... and red jeans SO tight they probably broke his pelvis. How did he get them on? Did he spray his legs with WD40?! I was kinda worried his dancing would result in the stitching giving out (They looked as old as his jacket!), and he'd end up shambling around in his underpants.

Well, the fashion disasters have been more interesting than the bands so far, hopefully **Die So Fluid** will impress with their music, and not just for their fashion sense- or that frontlady Grog might be seen as being particularly alluring, and like Christina of Lacuna Coil, will become the sole focus of any press coverage. A quick glance at their Cd cover doesn't do much to allay any fears on that front, Grog's in the foreground while Al & Drew look pretty nondescript & out of focus. The snaps were taken by Kerrang shutterbugger Paul Harries, no surprise come to think of it.

Indeed they are pretty impressive. Not earth-shatteringly so, I guess they might not shine in greater company- But they do justify their headline status. The band have a strange aura- almost as if they have a spray-mist surrounding them, which befits their music, kinda gothy, sorta grungy, with a touch of Queen Adreena-ish spookiness. Grog's voice, perhaps unfortunately, isn't as impressive as her bass playing skills (or her fringe- Better than Tobey Torres!)- at one point, she's playing one handed & pointing, Spinal Tap style! That'll please the guy in the leather jacket, seeing as that move was stolen from Saxon.. The crowd look pretty impressed overall, and they get movin', including one guy doing a bastardised skank down the front!

On the tube ride home, I try not to laugh as I imagine that guy struggling out of his jeans...

Just Don't Let The Music Stop!

Bis/Motormark @Harlow Square, 22/10/02 By K

Bis! At my local-that-I-hardly-ever-go-to, Harlow Square! Oh my..! Not that I have anything against the Square, just a few bad memories of college days, which I'm pretty much over. It's a nice, kinda homely, maybe a little retro, venue. (Historical note- my dad used to DJ there when it was called the Galaxy, back in the 70's.) While the venue's pretty empty, I lunge for the merch stall, manned by Ryan, he of Discount/The Kitchen/Manda's husband fame. Work him, girl! Acquiring a t-shirt, the live 'Play Some Real Songs' album, and a copy of the long-lost 'Funky Spunk', I then foist a copy of the last ish of el' Juice into Manda's palms, and chat for awhile- she's so sweeeeeet! As is the li'l kid in the DJ booth, dancing along to Le Tigre 'Deceptacon', making appropriate air-punch moves to the '(whoosh)One! (whoosh)One! (whoosh)One! (whoosh)One!' bit. Bless!

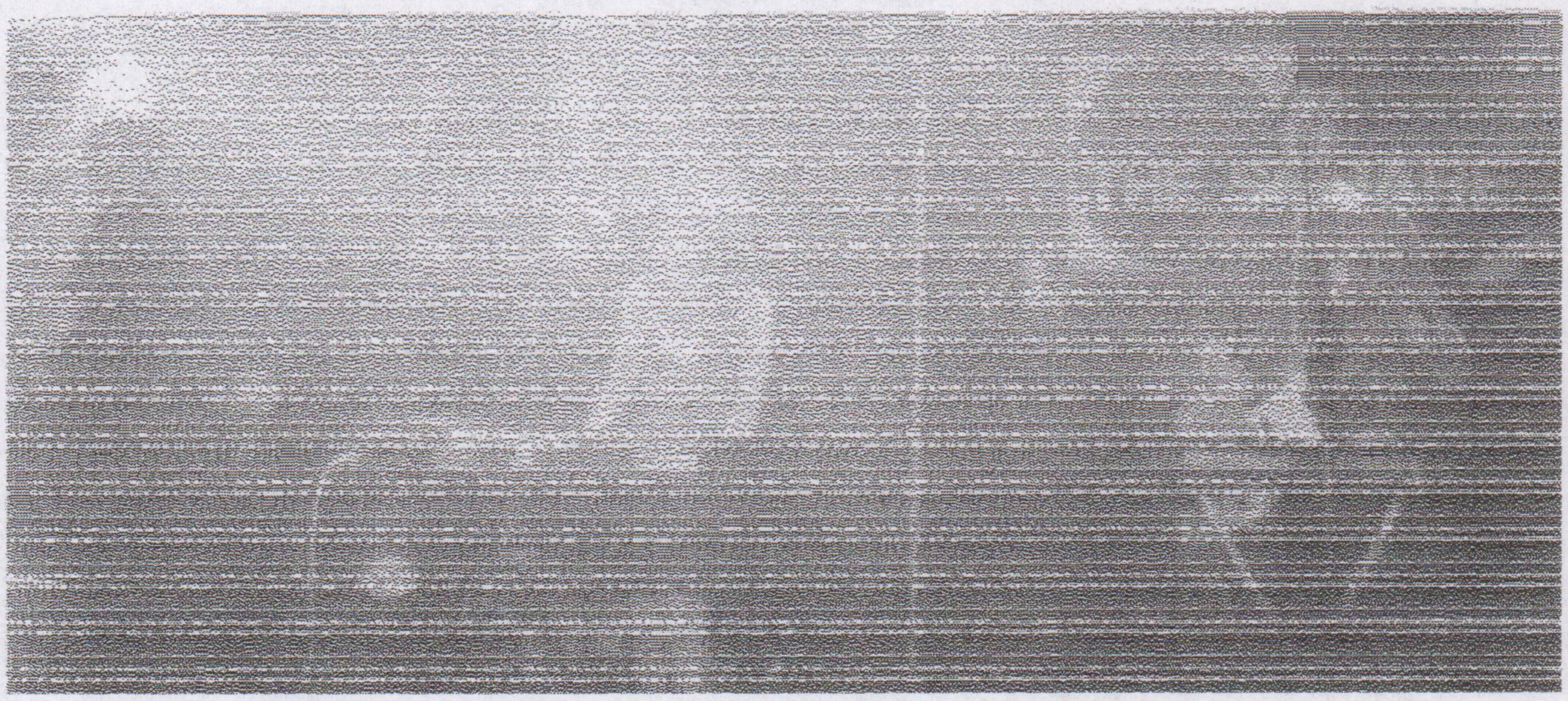
DJ Frenchbloke is responsible for the inbetween set tonight, and seeing as he played two awful bootlegs of Limp Bizkit 'Rollin' & Whitney Houston 'It's Not Right But It's Ok', I only have nasty memories of his set, and consider ringing my dad & asking if he wants his old job back. He redeemed himself later by playing the Powerpuff Girls theme before Bis- not sure how amused or pleased they were. Jo also got her Powerpuff Girls lunchbox signed by them (I noticed Steve & Manda signed blank spaces, but John wrote all over Blossom! Nooo!), this makes me wonder, does doing the Powerpuff Girls theme feel like an albatross round their necks now? Shoulda asked Manda in her interview rilly.

Motormark are scaring the nu-metal kids senseless. "There's only two of them!" "What ARE they wearing?!" "Why's there no drummer?" "Mummy! What's this weird music they're playing?" "Look! His guitar only has six strings!" (Incidentally, why do nu-metal bands use seven-string guitars/five-string basses? It doesn't make 'em *play* any better.. and you can really see li'l baggy-jeaned, Slipknot-hoodie wearing little shits down the front going "Ahh, that extra note- it makes all the difference") You think i'm joking? I'm serious, some of the baggy-jeaned, Slipknot-hoodie wearing little shits look traumatised. But i've fallen for 'em, and Jo's TOTALLY fallen for 'em. They just look so cute up there, the bloke wearing a kilt, the girl in a red, um, don't really know how to describe it, but it had a hoop round the bottom hem, shading cute kinderwhore shoes. Motormark's sound takes elements of punk & happy hardcore, real fun with songs like 'Raised On Tetris', 'Jetset' & 'Ringo'- the latter two available on pink vinyl- to get your ass vibrating. Merely shaking isn't quick enough. But it's their covers that stick in the memory- a 200bpm race through 'Tainted Love', and the Ramones 'Blitzkrieg Bop'. To be honest, I don't really want them to come off!



But they have to, else **Bis** won't get on! Launching straight into 'Eurodisco', I dance with out any fear of embarrassment- although in retrospect, maybe I should?! Steve adlibs by singing Kim Wilde's version of 'You Keep Me Hangin' On'- and they do sound alike, don't they?! But something's

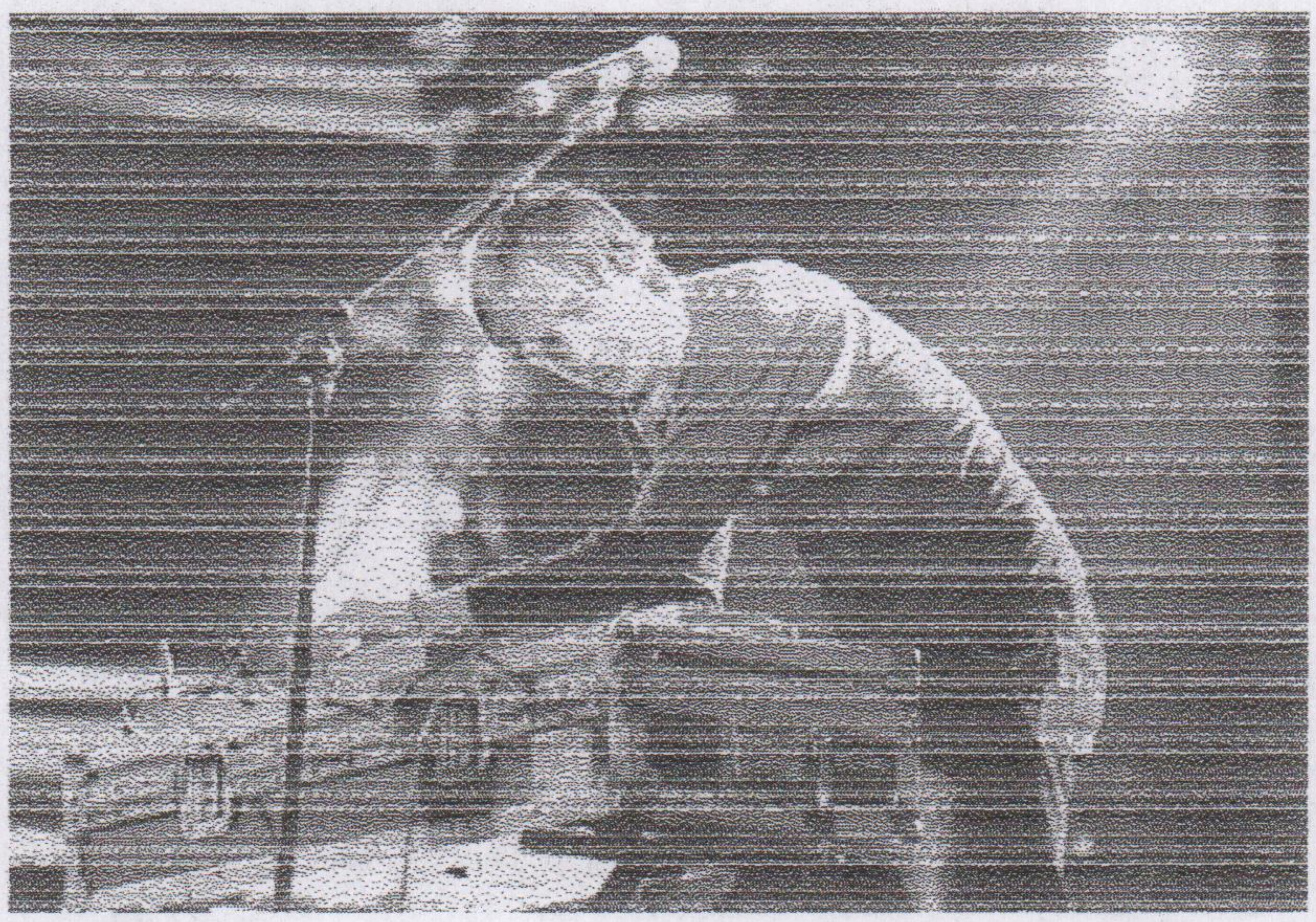
missing. The show doesn't really feel like it's started.. then after Eurodisco, Steve says "Hello, we are Bis from Glasgow Scotland" ...NOW the show's started!



Recent single, 'The End Starts Today' is followed up by newie 'Today Of All Days', which is in the now-familiar new Bis style. 'Skinny Tie Sensurround' is the first off 'New Transistor Heroes' to be played, and it may come as a surprise to you that more 'oldies' were played from that, and just one from 'Social Dancing' (And none from 'Music For A Stranger World')- also, 'Brainclouds' was played from the overlooked Fukd Id 5 ep. 'Monstarr' could almost be Manda's signature tune, and the cutest, ickle popstar-in-my-pocket there is comes into her own, megaphone in hand, for this. Her performance is effortlessly cool, and to the untrained eye it might not look like she's actually doing anything. Unfortunately, a lot of untrained eyes belong to NME journalists. "We're rivalling Motormark for obscure cover versions"(John)- and they take time out to thank Motormark, who're driving them home that same night. Well, they probably got back to Scotland in record time!- i'm expecting 'Love Will Tear Us Apart', but it's the funky 'Shack Up' to my surprise. Who did the original version..?

Another unfamiliar-to-my-ears choon was 'Cubis (I Love You)', the most memorable & catchy of the two new'uns. Then...... "Sugar Sugar/ Kandy Pop!/ Push It Down! Pull It Up!" awww yeah... Still has all the same effects of eating an entire Lucky Bag to yourself, without the dental damage, and it doesn't leave you bursting for a wee half an hour later. Bis- the sweet you can eat between meals, without ruining your appetite. "See, it's not as bad as you remember it"- John. Modesty, modesty.. 'Robotic' rivals 'Eurodisco' for their danciest number, and Steve adlibs by singing Shannon 'Let The Music Play' over the intro- and they do sound alike, don't they?!- and, just like on 'Return To Central', it flows neatly into 'A Portrait From Space'. So the set ends, i'm smiling like a kid who got the last cupcake..

...Oh look, they're back for more! What're they gonna play? Manda takes the mic.. "The we met I knew I/ Needed you so.." OHHHHH MYYY!! A cover of the Ronnettes' 'Be My Baby', one of



the sweetest songs ever. Sung by Bis. Cancel Christmas, it's come early for me.

This, and final number, The Who's 'My Generation', were added to the set after Bis soundtracked Quadrophenia, the latter sees the nu-metal kids come down the front ("It's the Oasis song!"). Afterwards, I get my copy of Return To Central' signed by Manda & Steve (Manda said my blue metallic pen was 'cool'!), and on the journey home, my dad subjects me to the anodyne blandness that is Heart FM. What a comedown. I think your job is safe for awhile, DJ Frenchbloke.

Girl Boy Revolution Yeah!

One night, Professor Utonium was in his lab attempting to create the perfect Riot Grrl band, using the following ingredients; Babes In Toyland. L7. Bikini Kill. But one ingredient was accidentally added to the concoction; Chemical X. And so KAVOLCHY were born! Using their ultra-super-powers, Gema! Vicki! Laura! and Gary! will rid the world of the forces of evil... misogynistic nu-metal & bland boy-indie-rock!
Doo, doo, do do de do doo...

Introduce yourselves to the lovely readers..

Gema; Lead vocalist, well angry screamer type thing + geetar!

Vicki; Lead guitarist, backing vocals + all-round sparkly princess!

Gary; I play the drums.

Laura; The quiet bassist in the background.

Gm + V; No you're not, you're ace-ist, bass-ist!

For those that haven't heard you, describe your sound..

Gy; My sound is the sound of drums and cymbals being hit by sticks of wood (American Hickory)

Gm; Gary, always the sarcastic git! We once got described as 'What L7 would sound like if they came from Olympia', and I think that sums us up pretty well.

Where does the name (Kavolchy) come from?

V; Marilyn Monroe's character in 'Some Like It Hot' is called 'Sugar Kowalczyk' (pronounced Kavolchy (K))!

Gm; Marilyn is one of my idols.

Who, in the band, is the...

Laziest?

V; Me!

Gm; I could sleep forever, well when I have to go to uni anyway!

Alcoholic?

V; Gema (Laughing)

Gm; Piss off!

Gy; I was a practicing alcoholic during summer 2000.

Chocoholic?

Gm; Definitely Gary, he's the one that can eat chocolate constantly but still remain the skinniest- bastard!

Gy; 138 pounds of pure scaredy-cat.

Messiest?

V; (shouts) Gema!!!

Gm; Stop picking on me bitch! At least i'm not a psycho Monica who has to clean every last piece of dirt up.

Smartest?

Gm; That's a toss up between all 3 of them. They're all A* pupils, i'm not saying i'm thick but compared to them- i'm an idiot!

Who, or what, inspired you to start playing the instrument you play?

Gm; Before Kavolchy I played the drums in other bands and believe it or not I heard 'Money For Nothing' by *hem-hem* Dire Straits, when I was 5 and that inspired me- i'm not proud! With the guitar thing it would have to be Donita Sparks and her Flying V- she rules the world!



L; Kavolchy inspired me to play bass, always sung or played guitar in the past, but they needed a bassist so I thought i'd give it a go, that's why i'm so pants, but it's cool to do summat different.

Gy; I don't know. Something to do, looked fun, didn't know it was such hard work!

V; I've had a guitar since my 13th birthday, but it took me 4 years to master the powerchord- now there's no stopping me baby!

Fave bands of all time?

Gm; Has to be Nirvana doesn't it? Also Babes In Toyland, Blondie, Sleater- Kinney and Dinosaur Jr. I love the Sex Pistols and the Ramones too.

L; Pixies and Sleater- Kinney for definite, I can listen to them for ever and never get bored, just constantly inspired. Been getting into a bit of Nik Kershaw too recently, don't laugh! *(I won't. Well, not unless you start wearing snoods & fingerless gloves as well.. -K)* His songs are beautiful.

V; Of all time? I guess The Beatles and The Doors would be up there w/the best bands ever. Um... also Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane & Frank Zappa deserve a mention. Peace out, man...!

Gy; Comet Gain, Huggy Bear, Unwound, Teenage Fanclub, Flaming Lips, Ween, Heavens To Betsy, The Bowls, Bobby Conn, Bangs.

Ask me a question.

Gy; Bit of Simpsons trivia for ya. **On the 'Frank Grimes' episode, what suggestion for the dinner party does Moe give to Homer?** (Ohhh... i'm s'posed to be a Simps anorak! That's probably the episode i've seen least, to be fair on me.. Give up.)

What song have you got in your head right now?

L; Diana Ross- Chain Reaction, just been playing it in the pub.

Gy; Right now the radio's on, but earlier it was Black Candy by Beat Happening.

V; 'Private Dancer' by Tina Turner.

Gm; Hey Gino! *(Mmm, d'ya mean Geno by Dexy's Midnight Runners?- K)*- such a classic, but it's annoying me now!

Which song makes you...

Happy?

L; Something by The Strokes- they've got me through this shitty week of having my heart broken. *(Awwwwww. I know the feeling all too well.. -'Bitter' K)*

V; 'Don't see what anyone can see in anyone else' *(....#'but you'#.. -K)* by The Moldy Peaches- really cheesy modern day Mills & Boon shit- feelgood factor all the way, baby- i'm such a sucker for romance. Cool lyrics, too!

Gm; 'Hangin On The Telephone' by Blondie, cos it's such a party tune, it makes me wanna dance.

Gy; 'Winners' by Bobby Conn. It reminds me of summer, and it's just great!

Sad?

Gy; 'These Are The Days Of Our Lives' by Queen. I was a massive Queen fan when Freddie died, and I was destroyed. Everyone at school completely took the piss as well on the day he died. It was awful.

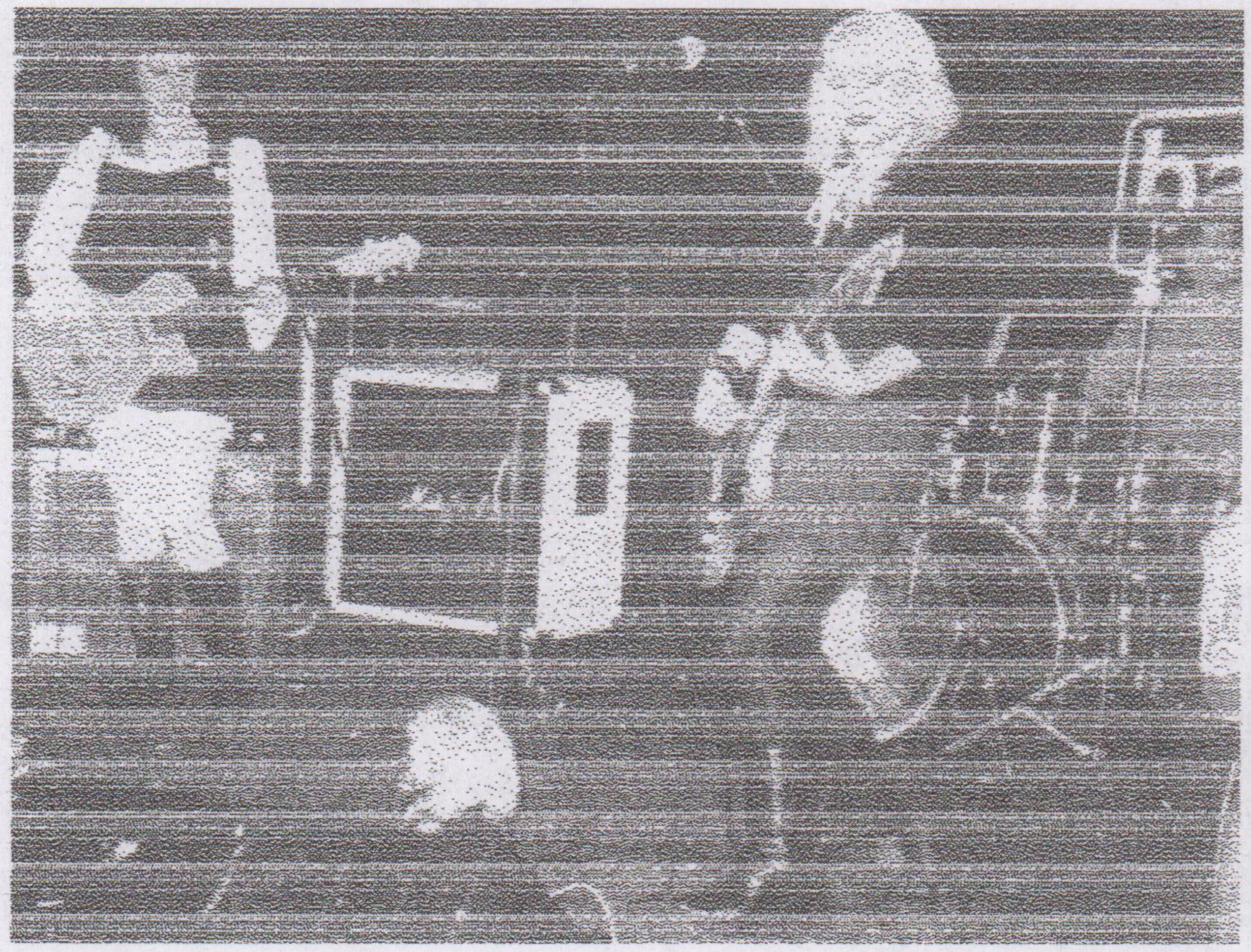
Gm; 'Sunday Morning' by Velvet Underground cos it reminds me of a sad period in my life & it's quite a depressing song isn't it?

V; 'I Can Tell That We're Gonna Be Friends' by The White Stripes. Forgotten childhood innocence makes me sad. Also, Hyacinth House by The Doors.

L; Nik Kershaw- Wouldn't It Be Good- Nostalgic, reminds me of my favourite film & my life & my childhood.

Angry? (crossed out & replaced with 'Grrr' by Vicki!)

Gm; Vietnam by Rage Against The Machine cos Zach was such an angry singer/lyricist and he just makes you wanna shout with him- god i'm sad aren't I?!! *(Nooo! not at all.-K)*



L; Something by Babes In Toyland, or maybe a song i've written myself- they are all bitter & full of angst.

Gy; 'You Know You're Right' by Nirvana. Because it makes you realise what you're missing.

Who would be your dream celebrity date? And where would you go?

Gm; Dave Grohl! Cos he's such a nice guy, I hugged him once! We'd go to, erm, a gig where he plays drums, cos he's amazing!

L; Well, i'll be fighting you for him!

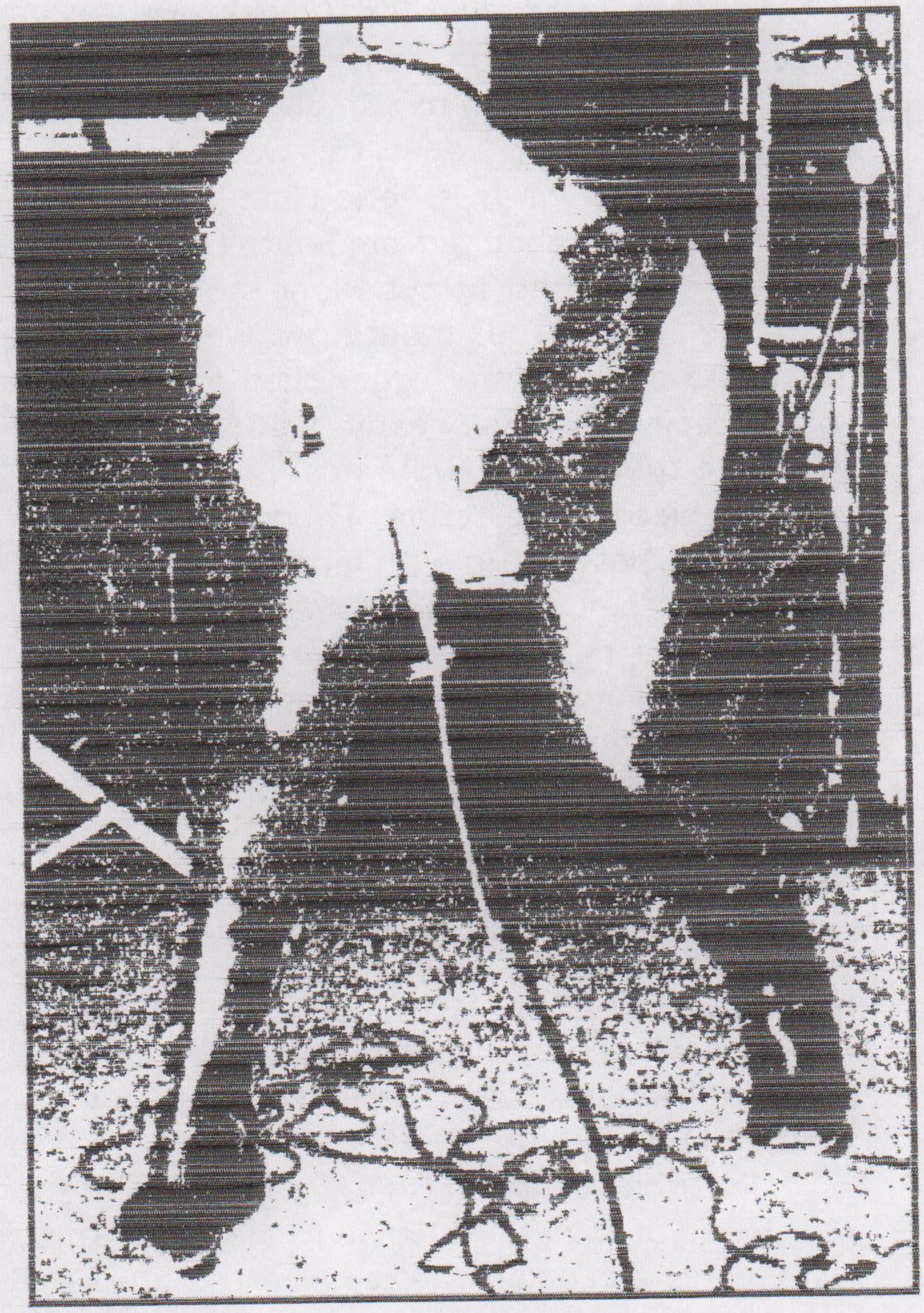
Gy; Maggie Vail. We'd listen to some records on a Dansette, then maybe go to Springtime to record some music.

Gm; Gary is obsessed with Maggie Vail- bless!

Being a mainly female band, do you experience many sexist/patronising comments? Share some experiences of such incidents..

L; When I was in one of my first bands our drummer was a boy punk & he said to us that girls can't do punk! Well, why was he in our band then? I'm sorry, but girls invented punk.

Gy; Here's something. I worked on the Ladyfest committee this year, and was the only male on it, and was largely ignored for the first 2 days, even though I was working my ass off. We all ended up friends though.



Gm; I've had a few. When I was drumming guys would come up & ask me to 'do a roll, then' when I'd done the gig + showed them I kicked ass!! They'd say 'not bad for a girl drummer'- how stupid & ignorant is that? I hate that kind of shit.

Wot's yr favourite...

Place in the world?

L; My bedroom.

Gy; Springtime Studios, my studio. Total artistic liberation 24 hours a day!

Gm; I went to Lake Garda in Italy once & that was so peaceful & beautiful, but other than that I guess it would be in slumberland!

Simpsons character?

L; Lisa, cos she's like me, a goody-goody geek.

Gy; Moe. Everyone should be more sarcastic & surly & bitter like him.

Gm; I totally agree.

V; Gary is lying- he fancied Lisa when he was a kid- fancied a yellow cartoon character- says there's something 'tragically poetic' about her! *(Nowt wrong with that!- K)*

Animal?

L; Scared of all of 'em.

Gm; My dead dog Jack & my alive cat Sid, so both!

Gy; Dogs, no question. I loved sharks as a kid, though.

V; Lions- I had a lion scrapbook when I was a kid. Just pictures of lions- that's it. Always wanted a lion- in the end, i settled for a domestic bobcat called Nancy. Prrrrr!

Alcoholic drink?

L; Bailey's!

Gy; Long Island Iced Tea. I'm a classy fella.

V; JD + Coke.

Gm; VODKA with anything! Just give me some NOW!!!

Finally, tell everyone why they should love Kavolchy...

Gm; You should love us cos 'we love to rock, man' and we try our best to upset the 'shaved ape'! ALSO!!!- We'd love for other girls to see us & realise that it's not that hard to get up & do it for yourself too, so c'mon buy a guitar *(or bass. or drums.- K)*, learn a few chords & start shouting out.

Best piece of advice given by a band, in my zine anyway, so far. And, even if you don't get anywhere near as good as Kavolchy, The Cherrybombers, We Start Fires, and several others besides, still send me your demo!!

Gem, Laura, Vicki, Gary- thanx for the interview! Oh yeah, Gary did give me the answer to the Simpsons question; Moe advises Homer to stick a fork in his eye. No more sleepless nights for me then...

Contact! kavolchy@yahoo.co.uk

Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'

Thought of taking your humble 'zine a stage further? Organ & Black Velvet are slick, glossy affairs sold in the likes of Tower Records, while Abuse has evolved into a fully-fledged label, promoting bands on the 'Abuse Your Friends' compilations & various singles (on the Velocity imprint), and unleashing the likes of Sugarcoma (To national success & acclaim, and a fat Music For Nations contract), VyVyan (To a brief flirtation with stardom, and the pages of Just 17) The Pin-Ups (To cult status) & Sunset Sound (To snatch genuine pop from the jaws of the Pete Waterman Pop Stars processor). I asked main man Sid a few Q's on how the evolution came about, and what it takes to start a label- and, as you can probably tell from the Q's, the answers were quite surprising...

How did Abuse/Velocity evolve from a fanzine to a record label? And what made you decide to do it? Abuse fanzine became a monster around the time of mid 1995 into 1996, selling a thousand copies of each issue pretty quickly. The fanzine scene was a lot more active & honestly (maybe somewhat stupidly) thought we were making some sort of difference. From memory I think a very young girl called Amanda and purchased a copy of Abuse. Which resulted in her sending me a demo of her band called Bis. That started us raving about the Glasgow music scene of that time- bands like Bis, Pink Kross, Eska, Delgados & so on. Put on the first ever Bis London show in 1995. Which led to a smallish but exciting scene here in Reading, I guess this was about early 1996- such as the Pin-Ups, Period Pains, Gel, Disco Pistol & Dweeb, although from South London had Reading connections. To cut a long story short, a lot of the above bands mentioned went onto & got record deals. Some bigger than others, but from us seeing them very early- first gigs in many cases. We thought we were missing out here & wanted a piece of the action! Then VyVyan came through the post, again with hindsight a tad stupid thought they were a great post Bis or at least post Kenickie type band & record labels would come running with a big bag of cash. Always been ambitious & believe that one day all this music nonsense will get us out of our poverty trap. Abuse records started late 1997, with the first issue of the now 'famous' Abuse Your Friends Volume 1. Our first single release was the still fucking great 'Teenage Wannabe' by VyVyan in early 1998. Got bored of the name Abuse records; started Velocity Recordings in 2000, because SugarComa came via the postman.

Money is obviously a big factor, so how much would you need to get started? To be honest money isn't really a huge factor, constantly surprised what you can achieve with very little cash. Obviously if we had a few quid, just say like £10,000, could make some serious inroads. 10 grand to a major label is nothing. Our record label started off with about a grand in late 1997.

Promotion/distribution is a big headache for a small label, so what's your method of doing/handling this area? Promotion isn't too much of a headache. Again if we had some money then could make videos to promote records & help the bands tour properly. Everything released has been played on national radio; many all over Europe & America. VyVyan were a great example of completely blagging it, just by pure cheek managed to blag features in Just 17, Daily Star, BBC Choice TV performances & Reading Festival slot by a mix of being cheeky & friends of friends & didn't pay anyone a penny to make things happen.

Distribution again isn't a huge problem in the scheme of things. You have to play the game ie get your release on the radio/in the press or shops, esp the chains will not order any stock. A distributor can only do so much, pretty happy with our distribution. Sure it could be better but it could be a hell of a lot worse!!!! A lot of small label types moan like hell about this, but many of them should start playing the game. For example putting barcodes on releases.

How many demos do you get sent each month? Not as many as we were when creating a fanzine A good month about 40, but thankfully

Abuse/Velocity Records

those bands know what the label is trying to achieve & the standard is on the whole is good. Please send more esp. more Hip Hop beat related & extreme Hardcore bands!!!

..And I guess you have to be tactful in letting the crap ones down gently.. To be honest very few bands hassle me after they sent me a demo, thinking about it that is a bit weird. If I really like a demo I will usually get back to the band. Thinking about it the last time some hassled by regularly whether I had listened to his band's demo was Som from My Vitriol! And he's done alright for himself.

Is running the label a full-time job? If not (or even, if so!) how much time gets put into it? The label is most definitely not a full-time job!! The amount of time varies. Currently I am spending a lot of time because we have a new band *(Three Litre- Reviewed later.- K)* & their debut single 'I Hate Christmas' is out on December 16th. For example today I have been to the post office twice, the bank, conducted a radio interview for local radio station 107 FM, talked to my distributor, hassled a couple of local newspapers, chase up emails & listen to new demo's. This is my day off from the day job. A busy week probably about 10 to 12 hours a week.

What would be your first piece of advice you'd give to anyone wanting to start a label? That is a really hard question to answer. It is so easy to start a record label, maybe too easy. If you think that starting a record label is a quick way to make money, then think again. I think it is helpful that you are slightly 'mental' to be involved in a record label at this level. But if you think you have what it takes, then just do it. Just like fanzines, they are not any real rules on starting a record label. STOP PRESS........ Send us your postal address & email and Velocity Recordings will send you a free compact disc!!

Starting a zine

Maybe starting a record label is setting your sights a bit too high? Start a zine! It's SO easy, what you're holding in your hands right now only started as a semi-jokey dare from a friend! (Stop me if I repeat myself.) Being qualified in graphic design, I use QuarkXpress/ PhotoShop to do this zine, sure it might seem a bit pricey (The programs can cost £500 each new!), but you can get a cheapish second hand PC/Mac with these, or similar, packages already installed. But ya don't even really need any computer or fancy software- The handwritten, cut n paste zines are much cherished, and are often more personal & endearing than fancy layouts like this. They can be your own works of art! But PLEASE make sure your writing's legible!!

Printing & copying; I print & publish this myself, but if you choose this method, keep a hard copy yourself- just in case your printer screws up, or you get SO overwhelmed with orders. Places like Office World do good quality double-sided copying- but you have to print at least 40 copies before you get a decent price, and of course, you gotta sell 'em.. Try & avoid newsagents (the ones with more porn than music magazines especially!) advertising 'Copies 4p', or provincial town libraries, as they're usually ancient & look like they've been dragged through grey mud. Hint; work out how much it is to copy one issue, cos while it's generally frowned upon if you make money on a zine- it's a labour of love- ya don't wanna lose TOO much money.

Subject matter? ANYTHING, dammit! Music's the most obvious subject matter, but just write about anything! Personal experiences, Why you think the world sucks, big up your mates/ your own band, Why you love the Powerpuff Girls/ Kathleen Hanna/ Star Wars/ Manga/ Tacky plastic jewellry/ the 80s, Why you hate So Solid Crew/ Brussel Sprouts/ Tony Blair/ Your idiot boyfriend/ Pointless lists/ Anything!! If you got a strong, opinionated mind let it spill onto paper. Well, it does help a *little* if you can make it sound interesting... plus it's a great way of finding like-minded peeps to write to! And if anyone slags you/it off- so what? It's YOUR thing. And you're proud of it.

Distribution; Make squillions of flyers, send 'em to other zine writers- buy a few first, if there're any reviewed that tickle your fancy trade with them, and they'll review/mention yours too! Advertising in NME is a costly option (£9 for 1 issue!), but you'll get a few orders & bands will send you demo's (Don't feel obliged to review 'em all, cos a lot of 'em suck!). Or get in with a zine distro! Quite often they'll distribute a particular style of zine, order their catalogue, see if yours fits & send 'em a copy! And when it's all finished, send *me* a copy!!

"I Don't Really Know.."

No, not Mavis from Coronation St., but Mavis the band, from that hotbed of new talent, the North East (Encompassing Newcastle, Sunderland, Darlington etc). Lead vocalist & Guitarist James Jam, is answering the q's at 1.38 am.

Okay, pleasantries first. How are y'all? And what have you been up to lately? Well, we're doing pretty fucking well. We went away this weekend past for a few gigs in Scotland with our electropop buddies Motormark, which was a lot of fun. Motormark, for those who don't know, are amazing boi/gurl synth pop which makes the boys & girls smile. *(Indeed!- K)* We played in Aberdeen, where we had the nicest fish & chips in all the land, and in Fife at Motormark's superb wee club night, 'Crimes Against Pop'. It was loads of fun. We're currently playing the length & breadth of the country promoting our debut album, 'The Mavis Crisis', and speaking to men in suits with ponytails & dandruff. It's all very exciting & provides some much needed, if temporary relief, from our dull monotonous lives. We're also pretty excited about being on the radio in November *(Last year, so ya missed it. Ner.- K)* when we record our session for XFM's John Kennedy show. John has been a great supporter of Sunderland music recently, writing about us in Dazed & Confused, X-Ray and the like, as well as championing The Golden Virgins, The Futureheads, This Ain't Vegas, ourselves & loads more on his radio show. Apparently Sunderland is the new Detroit. Which is bullshit, but it's nice for our wee scene to be recognised.

Introduce yourselves to the lovely readers.. and sum yourself up in 3 words. We're Mavis, Triple boy, one girl, guitar bass drums voice, indie pop action. We're from Sunderland, England. We've been baring our souls for 3 years now. Comprised of Andy (Drums), Mel (Voice/Keyboard), Ricky (Voice/Bass), and me, James, who plays guitar, sings, writes the songs, and gets wound up about the smallest things, we exist to communicate. And sum ourselves up in 3 words? To sound pretentious? To tell the truth? Matches. And. Fire.

Who/what are yr main influences? People like you & me. The kids who ran home from school in fear of their life. The ones who smelt vaguely of pee. *(Cheek! I don't smell of pee! That's D & G Masculine..- K)* The ones who didn't have the 'right' trainers. The ones with long, lank greasy hair, who preferred smoking cigarettes & talking about pop music & comics to physical education. The dreamers. The believers. We exist for & because of these people. Viva la underdog.

On a scale of Cliff Richard to Keith Moon, how rock n roll are you? I'm not very rock n roll at all. I smoke & I drink & I fight & I fuck & I cry at the end of it all. But then that's nothing to do with being in a band. That's just being a 22 year old with a short attention span & a lust for life. Define rock n roll behaviour for me? I suppose Andy would pride himself on being rock n roll. He's a subscriber to that whole school of thought & good on him. And yes, occasionally he will drag the rest of us into his seedy little world. But we never would have started a band like Mavis to go mental & have mischief all in the name of the bullshit Buddha that is rock n roll excess. This means too much to us to dilute what we're trying to do with acting like a nobber. Have you ever heard the Johnathan Richman song, 'I'm Straight'? That sums up what i'm trying to say far more articulately.

Who is your all time fave band? We all like vastly different things, and consequently putting tapes on in the car/van is a logistical nightmare. But we all really, really like the Pixies.

..And yr current fave bands? We all like The Golden Virgins, Motormark, The Futureheads, Billy Got Fired, We Start Fires, This Ain't Vegas, Zoidberg, Antihero, & 46 Itchy. They fuel our hearing & tickle our ears, and inspire us so.

It's my round at the bar. What are you drinking? I'll have a glass of Dr Pepper with an umbrella & a plastic monkey please. Ricky would have a pint

Mavis

of some fizzy lager crap. Andy would have Guinness, and Mel would have some alcopop nonsense I would have thought. Can I have some crisps too? And get me some cigarette papers whilst you're on your feet.

Which Simpsons character are you most like? We all smoke too many cigarettes, so Marge's sisters perhaps?

If you all had a fight, WWF-Death-Cage-Tables-Ladders-and-Chairs style, who'd win? Oh me, for sure! I'm the cock of this band! *(?!- K)* Andy has the moves, but i've got the bulk. Mel would be worth an outside bet though. She's pretty fucking hardcore.

Ever fallen in love with someone you shouldn't have fallen in love with? Too many times. As is the nature of the human heart. I'm sure the readers of your fanzine *(Hello lovely readers!- K)* don't want to hear the romantic mumblings of myself though. Buy the album, it's all there in full gory splendour!

Finally.. tell everyone why they should love Mavis. Because there's no fucking pretention to it. We sold our record collections to make this album, thinking it'd be nice to be in someone's collection rather than have big ones ourselves. We want people to fucking feel, bring some spirit back to pop music, some intelligence & passion. And we all have lovely table manners. Can I plug our Lp now?! *(Sure!- K)* Twelve pop songs of love, regret & ultimately, hope. 4 out of 5 in Kerrang, liked by Peel/XFM, and with Dinosaurs on the cover. What more could you want?! £7 inc p&p to; James McMahon, 26 Langhorn Close, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE6 1XL. Viva la punk rock & soul. Over und out.

Angelica

Continued from Page 5

knob, but on the other hand it looks quite big"*) Only 'Golden Lilies' maintains all it's vitriol. And then Brigit announces the immortal words "This will be our last song", she's already confirmed it as the last gig 'for the foreseeable future'. So they play 'I Want A Piece Of The Action'. When it reaches the 'You're not singing any more' line I have to say I had a tear in my eye. I couldn't believe one of my all time favourite bands were finishing right in front of my eyes.

Except it wasn't quite the end. After a bit of encouragement and a few technical problems, they're back for an encore of 'Bring Back Her Head', 'Why Did You Let My Kitten Die?' 'Teenage Girl Crush', and lastly the glorious mix of Teenage Girl Crush & Ice Ice Baby. Needless to say, all brilliant.

"You're future's so bright, you've gotta wear solid steel, five-feet-thick shades" So said Melody Maker when interviewing Angelica in 2000. I hope they get back together at some point, cos they could still have such a bright future. If not, the solo projects & collaborations mentioned in the programme for tonight will be worth looking out for. I'm writing this 3 days after the gig. I'm already nostalgic for it. See you down the front for the reunion tour!

Lacuna Coil

Continued from Page 11

much the only 'old' album to have tracks aired, those being 'When A Dead Man Walks', and 'Senzafine', sung in their native Italian, is the number that illicits the most whoops & cheers.

Lacuna are certainly not a straight-faced & pretentious band; they enjoy themselves, and have fun (eek!) onstage. Guitarist Marco twirls his plaits around like a helicopter, and they wish us a happy halloween in a comical, sing-song style. Cristina berates the lack of fancy dress, and the lack of imagination by those that did. And rightly so! Two girls were dressed as vampires, but in the same way as your mum dressed you for the primary school fancy halloween fancy dress disco, plastic scream masks (yaaaaawn..), only a full-on werewolf costume was remotely eye-catching. And there's a few more vampires hanging around at the back- but I get the feeling they're the real thing. Bite me!

Lacuna's atmospherics are tarnished somewhat by Andrea's exclamation of "THANK YOU VEREEE VEREEE MUUUUUUCH!!" after EVERY song... it's not the only English he knows.

On the tube home, there's yet another crowd of vampires, one complete with blue lips & Dani Filth contacts- shows that simplicity is effective.

* If ya don't get it, Jeremy Beadle has one hand bigger than the other. So, does he use the big hand or the little hand?

Skin Tight All Right!

The Donnas/ Mika Bomb @ Highbury Garage, 19/8/02 By K.

The Garage is starting to feel like a second home, what with Ladyfest not being so long ago.. a second, dark, sweaty home that is. Sweatier than ever, given that we're experiencing some unaccustomed sun, and there's a higher-than-usual level of testosterone in here tonight..

Hmm, now who would be the most obvious choice of support for The Donnas? Three guesses. Oh, you only needed one. Yep, **Mika Bomb** are the fast-becoming-ubiquitous-support-band; yeah, they're all good n' groovy, but it would be nice to give newer bands a chance, even as a 3rd-on-the-bill slot. Thoughtfully, they rearrange their set just to keep anyone who saw them at Bratmobile or Ladyfest interested, and they throw in a new song called 'Osaka'! The guitarist is wearing a top saying 'Me love you long time'! (Full Metal Jacket..?) Yes! You're Japanese! We Know!

Whatever, the 'Bomb never disappoint musically, but how many times can you see a band do pretty much the same set & not get fed up with them..? Well, this is the 4th time for me.. so probably the fifth, then.



I notice there's something just a bit off about the sound system tonight...

"Hi!! We're **The Donnas**!! Are you ready to RAWK??!!!" Donna A's customary opening salutation is met with, um, a reasonably voluminous response. Crashing through 'Are You Gonna Move It For Me' & 'Do You Wanna Hit It?', I wonder if it's gonna be the same setlist as ULU.. nah, The Donnas are pretty prolific when it comes to putting out new stuff, and sure enough their next one is a newie, 'Take It To The Back Seat'- "..from our new album, 'The Donnas Spend The Night' (or should that be 'Nite'? We'll see..) out next year" A familiar style, no radical new directions, just improving & building on their already-established rawk



n' roll machine. In fact, four new 'uns are aired tonight ('Who Invited You?', 'Get Stuck On You', and another.. that I can't remember the title of. I'm guessing it's either about cute boys, lame boys, or 'rawk n' roll'- hmm, that makes 'em sound like the female equivalent of Andrew W.K.. ptthhhhrrrpphhh, hardly. They have much more talent, style & sass than that sweaty gimp. The set itself rarely strays any further back than 'Get Skintight', but, in the



words of Ms Brett Anderson herself (in response to the shouts for 'Let's Go Mano') "Yeah, we know you wanna hear the old stuff, but our newer songs are tighter".

On the radio ads for V2002, The Donnas weren't even given a mention, instead Virgin Radio chose to focus the attention on the drivelly Dadrock headliners (not referring to the Manics there), and mentioning Groove Armada twice.. but yeah, they were there, and apart from the Manics they woulda been the only band there i'd like to have seen. The favour wouldn't have been returned tho; "There's no sun in our eyes tonight, so at least we can see you all" Donna A is very chatty tonight- i'm guessing they prefer the more intimate venues (as opposed to the school hall-like ULU), probably to scope the cute boys! Hey! Over Here! Aw.... "We've got a cute guy backstage, we don't know who he is, and he doesn't know who we are. But he doesn't care, and neither do we" Well, if you're not even *that* fussy why don'cha look my way?! (looks in mirror) Oh, right.

"Now I know some of you wanted to stay in & watch the football tonight.." note- not *soccer*, football- "but you'd rather come out & see The Donnas. Stay in & watch football- Go see The Donnas. Stay in & watch football- Go see The Donnas." Tough choice. Newcastle beat West Ham 4-0, if you're interested. Well, during 'Get Stuck On You', we can see ya, but we sure can't hear ya- I was right about that sound system; probably fed up with an incompetent sound guy, it decided to just give out completely, leaving The Donnas running on just their amps, and no vox- giving the feel of a real



garage gig!

The sound is eventually restored, but their set still seems to be cut kinda short, and- after Torry's customary 'make some noise' gesture- there's only one encore, and the majority get their wish as they close on 'Let's Go Mano'. It's still only about 10.15, so there's still time for those that missed the football to get home & catch the highlights..

Can Ya Pig It!

Pretty Girls Make Graves/ Your Enemies Friends/ Jerry-Built/ Death To Dj's @ Highbury Garage, 11/12/02 By K.

The Garage is almost becoming a second home for me, so many great gigs have been on here lately. (I'm on first-name terms with the security, i've been here so often.) **Death To Dj's** are first up, and judging by the times on the poster, it's gonna be a short set- 8.15 til 8.15?! Musically, they're not up to much, sort of an Emo-RATM, if that's possible- but unfortunately in places end up sounding like EMF. A shame, cos their lyrics are quite profound, one song in particular calling for an end to racism. **Jerry Built** seem to have a fair few fans here, but I don't think I could be counted as one- I don't think they were really bad, but I paid hardly any attention to them, so it'd be unfair to judge 'em on what little I caught of them. But they've got their fans, so why bother what li'l ol' me thinks?

Your Enemies Friends are up next, and are better than average emo, but unfortunately the male singer loves himself a bit much. Sure, play the rock god if you will, but keep your tongue firmly in your cheek. I preferred the numbers sung by the bassist, her voice had a shrill edge but without sounding squealy. Clearly influenced by at The Drive-In; there's even a bloke with a big 'fro & nerdy specs on keyboards.

...Who's still hanging around inbetween the sets, tuning up a guitar- only he's taken his glasses off. Wait! He also plays in **Pretty Girls Make Graves**! Ha! You thought you could fool us with your Clark Kent/ Superman ruse, didya?! Vocalist Andrea Zollo is just like their album; short & sweet, but leaves a lasting impression. And her vocals are even more perfect live, coming across like crystal even over the Garage's somewhat poor sound system. If memory serves correct, 'Ghosts In The Radio' opens up- i'm probably wrong there, that'll teach me to write the review a week later, lazy bugger- and wisely, their most spectacular number, 'Speakers Push The Air', is saved til last, and sees the most action. Inbetween, we're treated to a couple of numbers from the debut Ep, quite early on (2nd or 3rd?), namely 'Liquid Courage' & 'Modern Day Emma Gouldman' but it's mostly (obviously) tracks from 'Good Health', including a superb 'If You Hate Your Friends, You're Not Alone'.

They end their set, and i'm a little disappointed they didn't play 'The Get Away'. But then, back they come, and launch straight into it! And they finish with 'Bring It On Golden Pond', encouraging a mass stage invasion- how do bands manage to play in such confinements?! How did Le Tigre manage it when the Astoria stage got swamped?! Andrea looked like she enjoyed it, but couldn't wait to get outta there..

Poets Corner

You may well have seen **DJ Weston's** saucy verse in other zines, and she's contributed these, to add some much-needed culture to Juicy.

Performance

She stood before the audience

Exposed by naked lights

Then let go in her underpants

And pissed all down her tights.

Do Not Distub

I'm in the nude

In solitude

And doing something

Really rude.

Paranoid?

Who moved your raincoat

One hook to the left?

Who took that magazine

From behind the bed?

Nectar

How sweetly she

Lingers

On my sticky

Fingers.

D J Weston

Tuuli Madly Deeply

Tuuli/ The Wayriders/??? /???, 3/2/03 By K.

...That's the last time I quote Savage Garden in my zine, promise.

It was said that Team Rocket were gonna be one of the supporting acts tonight, but neither of the bands on before **The Wayriders** were announced on the bill, nor did they bother to announce themselves, so; WHO WERE YOU???!!!! And you were..... okay, if one of you did sound uncomfortably like Shed Seven in patches. Not bad. Whoever you were.

The aforementioned Wayriders, are a fairly average ska-punk combo, with a 3-piece horn section- probably the most talented part of the band, well, can you play Axel F on a trumpet? Apart from that, their set was like a Little Chef meal- an adequate appetiser, but instantly forgettable.

Here's a hint, **Tuuli**; Never let an incompetent buffoon, who's with another band, run your merchandise stall. I bought one of the Rockstar Boyfriends T-Shirts, not initially aware they were only in skinny-fit size admittedly, but that's incomparable to his faux pas; in the bundle of cloth that was handed to me, were TWO T-shirts. So, umm, **if you'd like to win one of these two fine garments, just write to me with the answer to this question; Name the two members that left Tuuli. (Hint; The answer's mentioned a few times in the review, dumbass.)**

Tuuli are still a fairly unknown quantity on these shores, but given the exhaustive tour schedule, taking in some of the more far-flung outposts of the country oughta change that. Love 'em just for their cute but extremely deadly music, and/or their sassy, humourous approach to live shows, but they deserve your love anyway. Think of them, kinda, as the Jem & The Holograms to The Donnas' Misfits. Cartoon analogies aside, their live performance is a flurry of glitter, sass, punk, pop, and witty banter- one song in, Jen needs another beer & is handed a bottle of

A chat with Claire from Tuuli...

(Incidentally, this was returned to me in literally minutes after I replied to Claire's email asking if anyone had done it... Top marks, Tuuli!)

Introduce yourselves to the lovely readers...

Claire- Bass... Jenny- Vocals/guitar, Jen- Guitar/vocals, and Naomi- Drums.

..And for those that don't know, describe your sound.

Punk rock, Rock n roll.

How long have you been playing together? And who/what inspired you to form a band?

Tuuli started in 1997. We're all inspired by different bands, from old school punk to rockabilly roots.

Will you be playing any gigs over here in the UK soon?

We're on a 28 date date headlining tour in the UK right now! Check out www.tuuli.com for the full list of dates. :) *(Including, as well as London, Manchester, Glasgow, Birmingham, Nottingham etc, such exotic ports of call as Gloucester, Frome, Fleetwood, Mansfield, Whitehaven.. Oh, send me a postcard from Cleethorpes! -K)*

Which other band/singer would you love to kick the shit out of?

CREED! *(Hey, get in the queue- K)*

What song have you got in your head right now?

'Dirty Man' by The Living End.

What was yr favourite childhood toy? (& do you still have it?)

CAREBEARS! Lucky was my fave.

What makes you... Happy/ Angry/ Sad?

Dogs make me happy & mean people suck!

Who in the band, is the... Laziest?/Most hyper?/Chocoholic/Messiest/ Funniest?

Jenny likes to sleep a lot, Naomi's a spazz, Jen is blown away by everything, and Claire likes trees.

Finally, any words of wisdom for our readers?

Have a good time, all the time!

Thanx!! K+

Budweiser- that'd be a bit insulting to a Canadian, surely? It's welcomed, nonetheless. Their beer of choice is Molson Dry, we do have it over here- seek and ye shall find, Jen. She says she'd been drinking Cider with her friend from oop north, not the dreaded Diamond White, I hope.. "MY FRIEND SAYS CIDER MAKES ME LOUD!!" - Jenny, who also loves hearing English people attempting a Canadian/ american accent. Bit like me- I LOVE hearing Americans attempting English accents. Jenny gives it a go, sorry Jen- but it was a bit Dick Van Dyke. 'Course, the usual South Park-related Canadian gags come out- "Oh come on, we don't say aboot!"- Jen. "I'll stick a boot up your ass"- Jenny. Now, *If I could be serious for a minute..* (Sorry... Sorry!!) I've NEVER heard a Canadian say Aboot. I think it's just a ridiculous myth (Eh).

Musically, Tuuli shine brighter than Jenny's hair under UV lights (I'm sure it's fibre optic or something- seriously, her blonde tresses *glow*), and their setlist takes in 'Wake Up', 'Heartbreaker', '10 Miles To Go'- a song about the last time they were in London, apparently.. figures, 'cos given Canada's geographical expanse, the song woulda then been called 300 Miles To Go- 'Rockstar Boyfriends', 'Summer Song', which contains the superb observant line "This summer sucks/ But it's winter in Australia", a cover of the Misfits 'Saturday Night' and 'It's Over'. Generally the more punkier, happier songs off 'Here We Go', I'd have loved to have heard 'Thousand Stars' & 'Whipped', but I played them when I got home anyway, so no worries. 'Here We Go' prompts an encouraged stage invasion, it's a little more reserved than the usual get-up-there-&-don't-give-a-fuck-about-the-band stage invasion tho'; Tuuli seem to have a forcefield around them. The best bit's saved for the encore, when the disappointment of not seeing The Vibrators back in December is alleviated- they try & get 'em up to do 'Baby Baby' with 'em, and after a little encouragement, Knox eventually agrees to sing & play it with 'em. Now, I LOVE that song, and for once I didn't suffer a mental block while I sang along. Seems Knox did a bit, missing out a few lines here & there.. but still, Ian 'Knox' Carmichael'- Reluctant Legend.



Yeah, this isn't The Underworld, it's actually Jenny & Claire at Club Kryptonite, 'liberated' from Tuuliworld. I forgot my camera Ok?! This is a great shot though. Check out ***www.tuuli.com*** *for band info, also check* ***www.tuuliworld.com****, the best fansite i've seen.*

Afterwards, they all take time out to sign posters & such, I ask Claire why guitarist Dawn Mandarino, and drummer Jen Foster left, apparently Dawn wanted to be with her boyfriend in Vancouver- in European terms, that's like from here to Moscow, so a little inconvenient for the band I guess. Didn't catch what happened to Jen F amidst the music & loud conversation; i'll let your imagination fabricate it's own gruesome death story. While signing my poster (You got my name wrong by the way, but never mind!) New-Guitarist-Jen defaces their ex-members, apparently Dawn is the Devil.. what, for running off with her boyfriend?! Heehee..

(obligatory final short summing-up para graph) Go see Tuuli in a town near you. It's impossible that they're not.

Hey Lady..

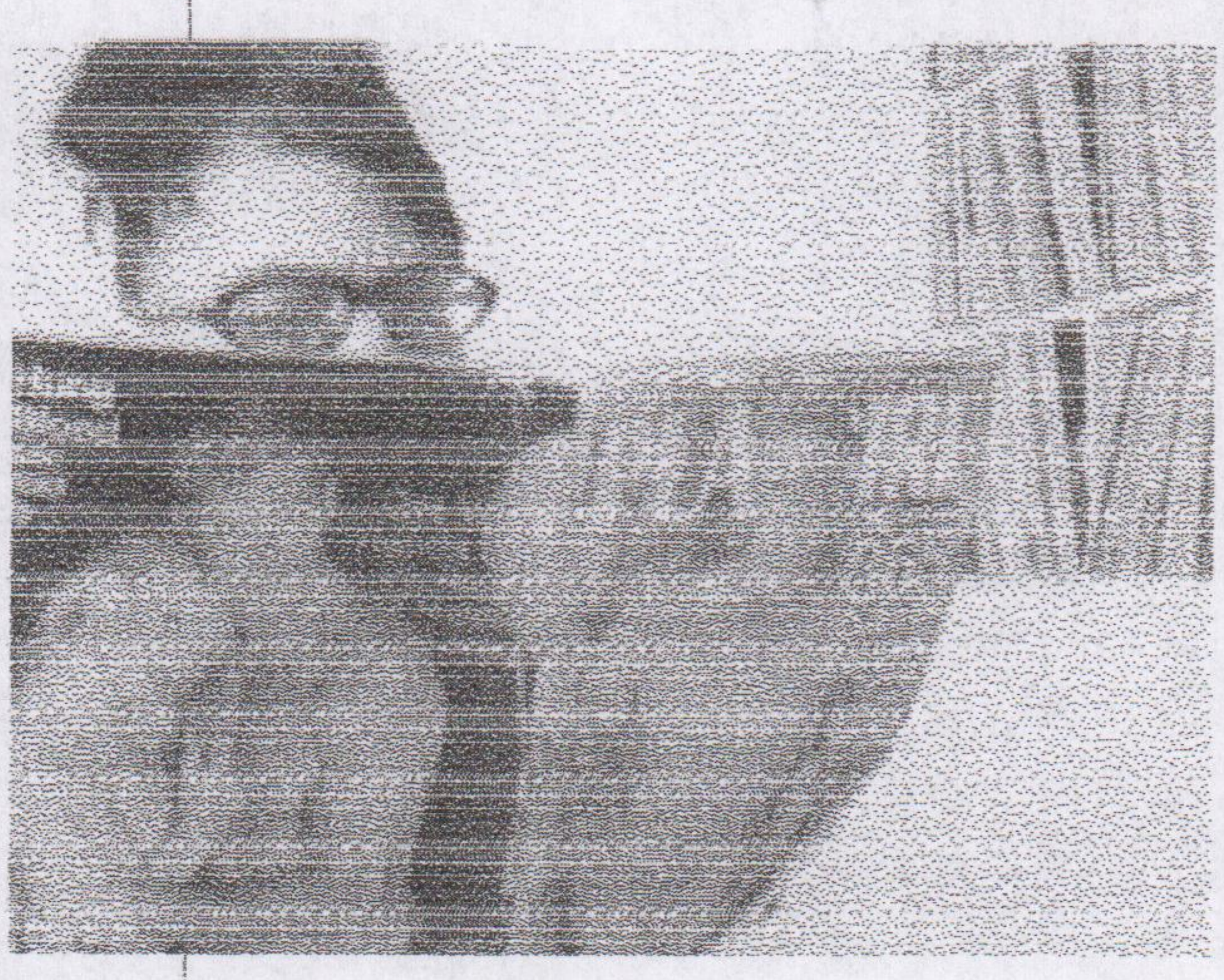
This is a portion of an email from Andy 'Quirk' Thomas, indie/pop editor of **drownedinsound.com** read my Ladyfest review in Juicy #6. He made an initial point about the 'perceived exclusivity' of 'these events'..

"Calling an event Ladyfest is as off-putting to many males as calling an event Blokefest would be to girls. It doesn't matter if it isn't, the perception is enough to ensure certain people who might have otherwise attended don't. The 'Female Only' sessions in the day programme just compund the notion that Ladyfest is anti-men. You (me) *and I* (him) *are not intimidated by the term Ladyfest- but that's half the problem. I don't have an issue with women being in bands & working on projects in male dominated industries. Those who do certainly wouldn't go to an event that presents itself in the way Ladyfest does. Ladyfest preaches to the converted and this is the point I think Angelica were trying to make."*

"I'd rather have seen Angelica playing with other bands of their standing rather than of the same sex or alleged politics. That is how equality is achieved. Angelica supporting Ash some years back was great- "normal" unpoliticised kids got to see them & consequently seen foremost as a good band rather than a good riot grrl/all girl/feminist band."

Being a supporter of events such as Ladyfest, i'll offer a diplomatic response to this. I'll take probably my most disliked point first; Preaching to the converted. Would a Manics Fan Convention, extolling the wonderfulness of said band be preaching to the converted? Is this zine preaching to the converted? Sure, even if the same, or similar points are made in zines, even if we've read/heard it all before, it's still great & inspiring to find more & more like-minded people out there, and Ladyfest effectively serves as a gathering for these peeps. Having said that tho', Mean Fiddler sold tickets for it like they would, say, Reading festival. So, at least for the bands in the evening, i'd say probably only 60% of the audience were feminists/riot grrls/ 'Politicized'/ whatever. Those who did buy tickets certainly weren't put off- I even had a random bloke stop me in the street & ask me if he could still get tickets for the night Tender Trap were playing. But I have had other emails saying they'd love to have gone, but would have felt out of place, or too scared to attend. That's an unfortunate perception, but all I can say to them is just take the plunge & come along, i'm sure you'll be welcome.

The 'Women Only' workshops might well give the impression portions of Ladyfest have an anti-male stance, but these workshops- admittedly, i'd have liked to attend some of them!- aren't put on in a 'Fuck off, men' sort of way, just to give an opportunity to those who wouldn't get the chance to do these things, due to the male-dominated areas of the industry that these workshops focused on, and the aim was to inspire confidence among those that attended to get out there & show those that DO have a problem with events such as Ladyfest they can do what these men do just as well! (The aims might well be higher than that, i'm just calling it like I see it.) If you don't like the notion of Women only workshops, hey- just come along & see the bands in the evening.



That gig, with Ash headlining- yep, it was fantastic, Angelica easily matched Ash & Muse for talent, but the amount of sexist heckling they received was UNREAL. At gigs such as this, you still get dickheads attending that think women can't play, or are just there to perv on them & heckle. So much for acheiving equality that way, eh? And if these "Unpoliticized Kids" are "Normal"- I despair, I really do. Are we supposed to be passive sponges & just accept everything? I think everyone reading this zine would disagree.

"And so the conversation turned..." In the words of Phil Oakey. Andy, in turn, offered a response to my response, with some interesting points raised, he said he didn't mind if i published them or not, but here they are. Contrary to what you might be thinking, Andy & I aren't at each other's throats about this, and I can see where he's coming from; it's not his own perception, just other people's. But what can be done to overturn this (mis)conception? Should Ladyfest be made more accessible, or 'keep it real'? I'd like to hear some opinions from you, the readers. Write/email to the address on the last page. Anyway, here we go;

Would a Manics fan convention.. be preaching to the converted? *Yes it would, as would a convention for anything from Star Trek to classic cars. The difference is that Ladyfest is supposed to be a movement for equality in the arts. Ladyfest is a celebration & a chance for a get together, but I assumed it's goals went beyond that. Political parties have an annual conference where they can all have a knees up, but it's only part of a wider movement.* ***...All I can say is take the plunge & come along..*** *I don't really see who you're talking to here, after all you pointed out that fanzines similarly 'preach to the converted'. People wouldn't feel the need to 'take the plunge' if the event wasn't called Ladyfest. Strange Fruit promote a diverse range of bands, many part or all female, yet the club name is ambiguous and won't prejudice the general public's view of the event.* (I was referring to some emails I received from (male) readers stating that they'd have loved to have gone to Ladyfest, but didn't on the grounds they would've felt 'out of place'. I thought I made that clear? Let's take the example of Lilith Fair- an all-female event, similar if more musically oriented than Ladyfest, and very open as to what it's about. But would people rather attend Lilith Fair than Ladyfest, purely because of the 'ambiguous' name? -K*) ***...the workshops... Male dominated areas of the music industry...*** *The music industry isn't as male dominated as you'd think. I worked at a major label for a time, and there were plenty of female product managers, press officers etc. Okay, so the bosses were male, but in other areas I never saw a male employee. ..The women that work in the music industry are confident & assertive, they didn't need to be 'protected' from male competition by learning in women only workshops.* (Can't help but feel you're painting a bit of a rosy picture here, 'cos i've heard some pretty nasty stories about the way female employees were/are treated in the music industry. Sure, males might not be as dominant in numbers... It's certainly good to hear that's not always the case, though- K*) *Some of the women only workshops weren' music biz related anyway. I seem to recall there was a women only dance workshop. Why? The sort of men who'd attend a dance workshop are unlikely to be seen as 'oppressors'.* (Have to agree there! I'd have loved to have gone to said workshop, seeing as I have all the style of a jet-lagged giraffe on the dancefloor- K*)

..Angelica.. Sexist heckling.. *The women's movement has always based itself on confronting prejudice. Angelica's high profile gigs did far more for raising the profile of women playing in bands than the Ladyfest organisation ever has.* (You're certainly putting your neck on the block there, Andy!!- K*) *Support bands will always get heckled by impatient 'fans' waiting for their band. How many male performers get heckled with gay jibes if they show flamboyance in their performance? Heckling is an unfortunate part of a gig experience, it won't go away though because morons will always exist in some form or another.* ***..'perceived exclusivity' is just that..*** *The perception of Ladyfest is the fault of it's name. It implies a female movement, which implies feminism, which implies lesbianism, which implies it's a gay event. I don't arrive at this conclusion personally because i've taken time to learn female music performers, feminism, and lesbianism are all different. However, if you ask someone on the street what the first thing that comes into their head when you say 'feminist' it'll probably be 'lesbian', 'man-hater', or 'comfortable shoes/ hairy legs/ no make-up'... you get the idea.* (Oh, Sensible shoes- *that's* the first thing I think of when someone mentions feminism! Sarcasm aside, every feminist I know will say that's TOTALLY not the case, sure there might be some that live up to the stereotype, but the majority actually don't. That is, in most cases, unfortunately the general public's view. Hopefully that will be overthrown. Princess Superstar & Peaches are well-known examples of not living up to the stereotype; both have openly said they're feminists, yet are very sexy in her performance & lyrics. Being feminists didn't exactly dent their record sales, did it?- K*)

All I Want Is A Real Girl Star..

Courtney Love. Kat Bjelland. Kathleen Hanna. All fab, revered icons in the realms of riot grrl, but we can't worship them forever.. So, who are our heroines-in-waiting? Do we have any true successors, a Grrl Icon that really RAWKS...?

...Step forward **Otep Shamaya.**

Is intelligence the new rock n' roll? Otep is, and as a band are, probably the most intelligent, articulate, open, honest & inspirational artist(s) out there. See a pattern emerging? No-one is gonna be personally affected or inspired by some fake-angsty, reclusive diva. Otep can inspire you through her lyrics, be they autobiographical, emotional outpourings, or loud, motivational rallying cries, or through her writing & spoken word- see **www.otepsaves.com** for evidence.

I've never been so deeply affected by an album as I was by Sevas Tra. Otep can provide inspiration for those of us who have something to say, a message to give, but just aren't confident enough to say it. Judging by certain tracks on the album, she's risen above oppression & abuse, and her words will encourage those who suffered similarly to speak out, while the abusers cower & diminish.

Or alternatively, we can be glad that we've got someone (else) with the loud voice, and take-no-shit attitude of Tairrie B. Either way, she's got a lot to give.



...Step forward **Brody Armstrong.**

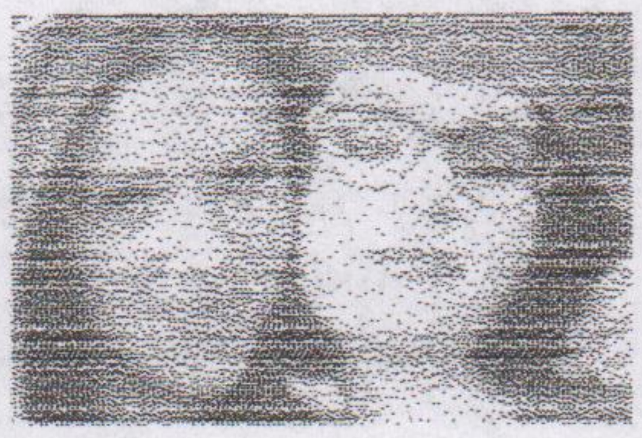
Overcame heroin addiction, married to a singer/guitarist of a successful band (Tim Armstrong)... but that's where the similarities end. Brody's very much her own person, and her & The Distillers are fast becoming as well known as Rancid, and not 'cos of their relationship. And, for once, when the focus is on Brody, it's not as sexy eye candy; she's easily one of the most intelligent, articulate rockstars out there. Every interview i've read with her has been interesting, enlightening, honest & open, and has shown her in a positive light. When she opens up to interviewers, she always says the right thing, thus making it nigh on impossible for the music press to demonise her, and they have to give the respect she deserves.

Brody herself cites Wendy O Williams, Debbie Harry & Monkey Suit as her own personal influences; hopefully she herself will inspire more girls (and boys, such as myself!) to pick up a guitar, learn to play, form a band, and elevate her to the iconic status she deserves. After all, punk rock was what saved her. And she's no untouchable megastar either; She rarely hides herself away in the dressing room, and if she does, there's more than likely a crowd of fans she herself has invited back there too.



"Be sure to wear that sexy green cardigan"

Yippee, at last *Ghostworld* makes it onto video, for us peasants that don't have DVD players. It seems that Enid & Rebecca are the characters to be in some quarters, well.. on the surface, Enid could well be my female alter-ego, but at first I didn't warm to the most popular character, her brand of sarcasm is extremely cold & blunt, bordering on the nasty. At least mine is a little more subtle & calculated. And her reaction when someone has a go back about her new 'punk' image, and matches her in a battle of wits, resulting in a virtual hissyfit, and changing her hair back to black, hinting at her insecurity. As she gets more & more attached to Seymour (Steve Buscemi- strange how he always seems to play the goofball characters? He plays Seymour particularly well, visually as well as his delivery- I'm pretty sure I can even smell his breath), the more I warmed to her. And, as she slowly starts to lose everything- Rebecca, her art course, even the senile old guy on the bench waiting for a bus- the more endearing & sensitive she comes across, and when Dana, the lady at the airport who Enid pretended to be, when they first pranked Seymour, answers his lonely hearts ad- and despite Enid's initial encouragement to make him call her back, she puts a strain on their friendship, so, how does she keep his friendship? Take a wild guess.



...Enid, Enid, Enid. Yep, the film is pretty much Enid-centric, and we get to see very little of Rebecca's persona, but Thora Birch plays Enid so well, and the part where she gets a job in the cinema kiosk is hilarious- largely cos it's so true. It may seem like a very loose, even paper thin plot at first, but the observations & occurrences in this film are what make it so good. Something in here will have happened to you. Or you know someone, or maybe you *are*, like one of the characters. *Luv it.*

"I am not the iron man.."

...Just a loving, caring, doting father. Who's, uh, done a shitload of drugs & beheaded a few nocturnal animals. Yep, at last *The Osbournes* makes it to terrestrial TV ("Wait!" I hear you scream, "He doesn't have a DVD or digital/satellite?! How does he *live*?!" Simple answer; I GO OUT & HAVE A LIFE.) Johnny Rotten said it was like watching an old druggie collapse into a pile of money (Hmm, pots & kettles anyone?), the Moral Majority might complain about the way he & Sharon talk to the kids (not been to Harlow at all, then!) but the Osbournes is avid, compulsive, voyeuristic, hilarious viewing.

Ozzy himself is kinda tragi-comic, it's funny watching him shamble about, not knowing what planet he's on, how old he is, or trying to figure out how to change the TV from the fuckin' weather channel, but you can't help feeling sorry for him really. But he loves his family ("...You're all fuckin' mad!"), so you have to have a soft spot for him- he's probably taken over from Homer Simpson as TV's favourite dad.

The kids are quite lovable, and provide some sweetness & light- well, as sweet as the Osbournes are gonna get. Kelly's very sweet & kinda shy, but Jack comes out with the sharpest lines ((To Melinda, the nanny) Of course you don't know, you're blonde" Melinda: "Fuck off" Jack: "Get a real job")(Sharon: "How are you getting to summercamp?" "By bus" "Who's driving the bus?" "A man with no legs"). Also responsible for the second-best episode when he invites hobo-ish pro skater Jason Dill to stay. The best, of course, is the one with the annoying neighbours. You'd have thought Pat Boone's Ned Flanders brand of homeliness woulda been annoying, but even in extremis that'd be preferable to the new neighbours blaring out Euro-trance or singing Kum Ba Yah.. So Jack blares out Death metal, Sharon lobs a ham hock over the fence, there's incessant obscenity tennis.... all the time, Ozzy's snoring his head off on the couch. Class.

Round-up style... Pretty Girls Make Graves **Good Health** If any song can restore your faith in music, it's opening track 'Speakers Push The Air'. *#"And nothing else matters when I turn it up loud.."#* Only 9 tracks on here, but all are great (quality, not quantity) and have incessant energy & positivity. Sure, that might not be reflected in some of the titles ('If You Hate Your Friends, You're Not Alone', 'Sad Girls Por Vida') but it's all upbeat & happy-happy. The other real stand-out track is 'The Get Away'; warmly groovy, like feeling snuggly under a duvet on a dark winter morning. Or alternatively, a summery car journey to a place you love. Good Health. Great Album. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▷▷ Riff Randells **S/T** Ramones bowlcuts, Donnas riffs & lyrics, a voice reminiscent of Helen Love.. is there any real need to review this?! It sounds exactly like you'd expect it to. Hardly groundbreaking, but of course, I love it. Only 6 tracks on offer, with titles like 'Lethal Lipgloss', 'A.D.D' & 'Mississippi Hotdog', short & spiky. Unlike their hair. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▷▷ Tuuli **Here We Go** Look at 'em, on the cover; unfeasibly pretty, airbrushed to within an inch of their lives, just-so tattoos & piercings... you hate 'em already, doncha?! And their almost-too-perfect punk-pop might have you questioning if they're the real deal (Remember 21st Century Girls anyone..?) Well, their recent live performances confounded that notion, eh. Every track sounds SO happy & upbeat, and their lyrics simply kick ass- could almost be written by Bratmobile's teenage sisters. Perfect cases in point are 'Rockstar Boyfriends' ('So, you have made it everything revolves around you/ You're fake to all your fans one day they'll know it's true/ You think you're so great & can never be replaced/ But with your attitude i'm sure you'll be put to shame') & 'Whipped' ('You're in pain & I won't be the one to stop it/ I need to control you/ You let me control you'). There's room for a little tenderness ('Thousand Stars'), and out & out fun ('10 Miles To Go', 'Summer Song') Lots of 'yeah yeah yeah's, and 'doo doo doo's in the backing vox, coupled with the music & Jenny's vocal style make this album like strawberry & Prozac ice cream. Get happy, get this album! ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▷ Pink **Missundaztood** 'Get The Party Started' is a little bit better than most pop fluff, and 'Just Like A Pill' & 'Don't Let Me Get Me' are easily as good as Avril Lavigne.. Pink's a lot better when she lets go & forgets she's a 'pop' singer. On 'Respect', she helpfully introduces it as 'My rap song', sure, she's no Princess Superstar, but the lyrics hit a spot. Nothing else really stands up to 'Family Portrait though', *easily* pop single of last year. Pity there's a few weak filler tracks on here, else this'd be pretty damn good for a 'pop' album. Cos, yeah, i'm s'posed to hate 'pop', aren't I? ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▷▷ ▷▷ Lacuna Coil **Comalies** Hey! Kerrang journalists! There's more to Lacuna Coil than just an alluring lead singer, y'know! It's kinda theatrical, almost orchestral, maybe a little camp, Goth-rock, vampiric & atmospheric, and knowingly so- it's not too serious. Male vocalist Andrea Ferro is a little too OTT perhaps, but Cristina's sumptuous tones defuse it. All good, but their best moment is on mini-album 'HalfLife', namely their delicious cover of Dubstar's 'Stars'. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▷▷ ▷▷ Various **Trash Companion #1** The cover's a classy black, but the Cd itself is a shade of shocking pink, befitting of Trash; Posh but slightly loose. Having Peaches and The Moldy Peaches on a compilation warrants attention purely for that juxtaposition, or just having great track selection, from the brilliant (Stereo Total, Duran Duran's 'My Own Way', Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Felix Da Housecat 'Madame Hollywood(Tiga mix)'- one of the best tracks on here), the eyebrow-raising (Kylie 'Confide In Me') The disappointing (Gonzales, Gold Chains), the questionable (Nancy Sinatra 'Kinky Love') AND simply downright fantastic (Slits 'I Heard It Through The Grapevine' & Huggy Bear 'Herjazz'- the 2 best are saved for last), it's well worth a look, dahling. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▷▷ ▷▷ Big Sur **S/T** Having seen them supporting Lauren Laverne a couple years back, and not being particularly taken by their somewhat bland indie-rock, i'm initially hesitant to review this. It's... not bad, a little more interesting than the likes of Stereophonics, but still not really my cuppa tea. 'Desert Song' & '75' are decent openers, but my interest doesn't really hold for the whole album. They'd probably sound good on the radio. Thanx to Excess Press for this. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▷▷ ▷▷ Good Charlotte **The Young And The Hopeless** After some pretty astounding live performances, Good Charlotte fall a bit flat on Cd in comparison. If you just heard this, you could be forgiven for thinking they were just another identikit nu-punk band. Lyrically, they're still better than their contemporaries, but they shine better live. I'm a bit wary of them hijacking the term 'Riot Girl', though, despite it being one of the best tracks on here... ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▷▷ ▷▷ Kelly Osbourne **Shut Up!** I'm amazed at how good this is. Seriously. Opener 'Disconnected' has a very Go-Go's-ish feel to it, as does the whole album really- it's not as polished as might've been expected, and is more punk than out & out rawk. The *very* Stones-esque 'Everything's Alright' is outstanding, and 'Shut Up!' is a great, bratty piece of fun. Even the token slow number 'More Than Life Itself' is damn good. Kelly's couldn't-give-a-shit attitude to music, interviews & this album only makes it more appealing. Check it out, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▷ Raveonettes **Whip It On** After their debut Ep received a pretty nonplussed reception back in their native Denmark, they made their way to Brighton where they played gigs for food. It doesn't look like they were fed very well, but at least it kept their band together. Coming on like Le Tigre remixing The Stooges, Their mini-album has the raw production & white noise-d, scuzzed-out feel I love, and, like Morrissey, Polly Styrene & Roddy From Idlewild, Sune Rose Wagner gets away with having a one-note voice. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▷▷ Pop Threat **Scum** Sigh.... Hearing this now makes me wish they hadn't dissolved in a pool of spilt lager & whisky, but i'll try not to make this sound like an obituary. Catchy, melodic chaos, with dreamy vocals- that pretty much sums up PT. And the tracks that capture this most are preceding single, 'Ingrained', the alternating between floaty & groovy 'Shellfire', and 'Ripen' (flipside to 'Ingrained'). 'Filth' & 'Monochrome' are my personal favourites, dispensing the dreaminess for a darker, more menacing edge. I have a poster from their fateful last gig; I should get quite a bit for it on eBay in 20 years. This album might be worth a bit too? Oh no, i'm holding onto it.. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▷▷ Bangs **Call & Response** Uh-oh, running out of room, but I HAVE to get this in. Only 6 tracks, that's nowhere near enough of the Bangs! Lyrically, they're more inspirational than ever, and musically perhaps more polished & refined. The title track & 'New Scars' impress, but the very Beach Boys 'Kinda Good' has me groovin, hood down, hair blowin', big sunglasses.. you get the picture. 'I Want More' could not be more relevant. savaging manufactured boy/girl bands. Someone play this to Simon Cowell, please.. 'Leave It Behind' & 'Dirty Knives' round things off, in the familiar Bangs style, proving riot grrl is still alive & relevant. BUY. ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▶ ▶▷

DemoRep

So many Demos, so little space... We Start Fires 'The Beauty Pageant' is currently just available at gigs, but Becky so kindly sent me one. WSF are the musical equivalent of Scary Miss Mary, deceptively cute with a kickass twist. Four tracks, 'When You Fall', 'Almost 4am', 'Space Song' & 'Feelings Change'- all have a more haunting feel than bouncier predecessor, the 'How To Be A Lady' ep, but still leave you with a beaming smile on your face. 'Space Song' being my personal fave, it brings Becky & Laura's stunning voices to the fore- Laura's backing vox sound uncannily like Corin Tucker... check www.westartfires.co.uk, email westartfireshq@aol.com. **Three Litre 'I Hate Christmas'**- Not actually a christmas song, so it does have some relevance to a zine being released in January (Ahem, maybe february..). It might be a little cheesy, but it's fun indie-pop with lighthearted lyrics without straying into dreaded novelty territory. 2 other tracks on this single, 'Lost In The Country' & 'The Pebble Song' keep up the non-serious feel. Contact Abuse/Velocity, PO box 2168 Reading RG1 7FN. **Nurotica 'Very Close To Beautiful'**- This got a pretty good review in Kerrang!, right? Title track is a mishmash of Placebo & Manics, but grows on you when the Bowie influences show through. 'Red Mist' & 'Very Close To The Edge' are brooding instrumentals, sound like the themes to twentysomething BBC2 drama series', tho'.. **Neo 'Die In America/ Virgin Suicides 'Fuck The Jubilee' split 7"**- Snotty, speedy punk, with a xeroxed black & red cover- John Peel would heartily approve. Can't help but feel they're picking on obvious targets, though.. Virgin Suicides' Demo Cd came sealed with an Anti Nazi League sticker- a good sign for sure, musically very 'punka', lyrically confrontational vitriol from the UK's Silicon Valley. Luv it. R*E*P*E*A*T records, PO box 438, Cambs CB4 IFX **Debaser 'Sketches In Sound'** Opening tracks, 'Disappointment' & 'Suzanne' would sound great on late-night radio, leaving you with a dreamy smile in a blissful haze. 'Love Song' picks up the pace a bit, but 'Stuart' & 'A Love Like Mine' are deliciously mellow. Ahhh... WHOOO! 'Cardiac Arrest' sees Debaser rock out in a short, punky burst. Love to hear a bit more of this band, could be the next Idlewild. Well, they're better than Mercury Tilt Switch. email debaseronline@hotmail.com **Scarlet Soho 'Disconnected'** Wow, this could almost be Soft Cell! Probably SS's finest moment yet. 'No Reception', with neat vocoder vox, & 'City Behaviour' are the other 2 tracks on offer here, the production & overall sound on these are simply amazing. If this don't get Scarlet Soho signed, I'll... chew my own testicles off, stick a cocktail stick through 'em, and serve them over a flaming Sambuca. To Motorhead. While wearing a 'Motorhead are shite' T-Shirt.www.scarletsoho.com, email scarletsoho@redhanded.co.uk **Duvet Day 'Duvet Demo'** Very 'Quirky' (knowing wink), with an 80's feel in it's musical style & dry vocal delivery, with a detectable Kenickie influence in the rhythms/beats? 'Indestructible', 'OK', & 'Blank T-Shirt'- a nod to designer-sheep- are the 3 tracks on this very DIY demo, fun, smiley, with a grating of cheese. andy_quirk@hotmail.com is yer man. **Stephen Jones 'Almost Cured Of Sadness'** Rewind 6 years, Baby Bird bloke's having top 10 hits (well, *hit*) - now, he's being reviewed in the demos section of my humble zine.. (alright, it's only 'cos I ran out of room in the Album section). I hated 'You're Gorgeous', so I placed it in my Cd player, red pen in my right hand.. quickly dropped & replaced with a blue pen, this is surprisingly good, not unlike like Money Mark's 'Push The Button' album, an interesting new direction. 70 minutes of it is a bit much, coulda been shorter & sweeter. Thanx to Excess Press for this. **Librium 'Leave No Trace'** An interesting, ambiguous-looking trio- but on first listen, it feels like they're style over substance. But this creeps up & grows on you, I like the more downbeat 'Afraid Of Everything' most, but the title track & 'Ashtray Heart' are quite Manics/Joy Division-esque, and if you like them no doubt you'll be into Librium. They *look* like they've got a lot to say, interview next ish? www.librium.info **Jen Schande/ The Cribs Split 7"** My turntable's buggered, so this was listened to through a paper cone with a needle stuck through the end. Gotta be careful not to scratch the lovely blue vinyl.. Jen Schande's got one of those sweet, Lauren Laverne style voices that's impossible not to fall in love with. She has a pretty extensive & impressive CV, but this is her first 'solo' offering. 'Dig The Halo' & 'Well Now It's Too Loud' are both supergroovy & summery, with an air of vulnerable charm. Shoulda listened to The Cribs first in retrospect, cos I got so into Jen Schande. 'Baby Don't Sweat' sounds a little too close to The Strokes' Hard To Explain' for my liking, but 'You & I' is pretty damn good. Like The Cribs, Love Jen Schande. Funky blue vinyl. Luv. Squirrel Records, PO Box 481, Leeds LS5 3TH **Cherry-bombers 'All Aboard The Nerd Express' Ep.** It's pretty much common knowledge that I luv the 'bombers. For those who haven't heard 'em, this Ep should tune your ears in to their funky brand of ska-punk, opener 'My Love' sticks in your head for days, and will have you jumping on your bed. 'Finally' will be familiar to those who got their early tape demo, still sounds dee-lish, closer 'Black Cadillac' bounces along in a funky, dubby fashion, gimme little bass make me wind up me waist.. Definitely worth yer £.. oh crap, how much is it? ask at thecherry_bombers@yahoo.co.uk. **IN THE BIN... Sonic Torpedoes 'Crooked Hill Ep' Undertow 'Different Kind Of Same' Kealer 'God Help Us' Lazarus Clamp demo Cd** Dreadful, dull, indie-rock. BORING!! Kealer even has the cheek to murder Blondie's 'Union City Blue'.

Zines

Brainiac #1 * #1.50+SAE * Larne, 17, Muswell Ave, London N1 2EB* My fave zine right now, random, haphazard and for that totally enjoyable. Gig/album reviews, random thoughts & rants, short stories, fashion.. thought-provoking, interesting writing AND cuteness all in a handy A5 bundle! ±±**Spilt Milkshake #2 * £1+A5 SAE *Bec Dyer, 22 Colls Rd, Peckham / 86 Goshawk Drive, Chelmsford *** A tad thinner than the bumper 1st ish, but still sooper. Bec's writing is just the best, she has that ability to make even seemingly dull subjects sound interesting. Like, white teeth?! She also takes on much more meatier subjects, such as the big Ozzfest fuckup, Mayday demonstrations, subtle instances of sexism.. and interviews the Showboys & Trilemma, and reviews Kiki & Herb, Reading '02, Le Tigre, Ladyfest, and tons more besides. Not a single page that's not worth reading. ±±**Sister Disco 3* 50p + A5 SAE * Clair, Pittville Gardens, South Norwood, London SE25 4DJ *** This ish is more tragic & touching, with pieces on suicide, marriage, feminism, vegetarianism- The topics may recur in this zine, but Clair always finds something new to say on the subject(s). Light relief comes in the form of a holiday diary, and 'Slipknot... At Home'- where the lads get their GCSE results.. ±± **Antisocial Scarlet #7 * 50p + A5 SAE * Sophie, Melrose Ave., Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2EG *** Back again, and as good as ever. Rants & opinions on Page 3, Homophobia, New riot grrl, and the quite frankly scary Ladies Against Feminism.. I love Soph's writing style, passionate, articulate, with a sense of humour. When's the Cosmo column offer coming? Top cover too. ±± **Riot Girl London #3* £1 + A5 SAE * Same address as Sister Disco/ Antisocial Scarlet *** Oooh! Best yet. Bits on Men In Feminism (By me! Lalaa..), pornography, advertising, beauty, Le Tigre, and tons more! ±± **PaperdollCuts #2 * Michelle, 20 Pasture Ave., Sherburne In Elmet, Leeds LS25 6LG *** A chunky A5 doorstep of a zine, held together by a safety pin! Muchos Queen Adreena worship (and an interview!), Le Tigre, Babes In Toyland, The Start/Human Waste Project/Aimee Echo, an extensive biog of Nancy Spungen, Brody & Little Whores On The Prairie interviewed, sooper spangly stuff. ±± **New Wave Myrtle * 50p + A5 SAE* Mik, 49 Warbreck Dr., North Shore, Blackpoo (intentional typo) FY2 9RZ *** Deliciously messy, cut-n-paste,handwritten zine with random stuff on top TV, starspotting, The Coral, single+demo reviews.. the 20p mixed bag of zines. Fuuun! ±± **The Exclusive 8 * £1.30 + A4 SAE * Matt T., 53 Birches Head Rd, Hanley, Staffs ST1 6LH *** Concentrates on new bands+demos mostly, also features Shellac, Clearlake, Trilemma, ATP'02, Dressy Bessy, The Breeders, and a whole bunch more. Each contributing writer gets their own column too, which often make amusing/interesting reading.

Byeee!

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This issue was soundtracked by... Uliput/ Kleenex ** Pretty Girls Make Graves ** Julie Ruin ** Lunachicks ** Bis ** Tuuli ** The Raveonettes ** The Slits ** The Raincoats ** Good Charlotte ** Distillers ** Breeders ** Pink ** Riff Randells ** Team Rocket ** Defenestration ** Heavens To Betsy ** The Bangs** Kelly Osbourne ** We Start Fires

It's recently become aparent that this zine is CURSED. Looking back at the bands i've covered, Rosita, Angelica, Twist, Llama Farmers, Pop Threat, Safety First, Venus In Furs (Alright, they reformed as We Start Fires), and now, unbelievably, Bis, have all split up. Also, Lauren Laverne's solo venture went by the wayside, and Tuuli & Katastrophy Wife have undergone sweeping lineup changes. So, in light of that, next ish will feature **Oasis, Girls Aloud, One True Voice, Raging Speedhorn, Nickelback, So Solid Crew, Creed**... any other suggestions?!